FORTEAN TIMES

attacks by animals 14
phantom cats on the prowl 33

Planetoids, meteors & spacejunk 3
BILL GRIMSTAD on 'Fayette' phenomena 5
Feral children 8
Falls of artifacts and stones etc 10
The Great Fortean Computer Project 17
PAUL SCREETON on a 17th C UFO? 18
Review Supplement 21
Phantom figures 37
BOB RICKARD on a new Reality Paradigm 39
Bodies: bits and pieces 44
Shocks, Forcefields and Curses 45
Letters 48

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FORTEAN TIMES

A Contemporary Record of Strange Phenomena

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FORTEAN TIMES is a non profitmaking quarterly miscellany of news, notes and references on current and historical strange phenomena, related subjects and philosophies. Formerly 'The News'. Affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO), and the Society for the Investigation of The Unknown (SITU), and other Fortean journals in continuing the work of Charles Fort (1874-1932).

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FT25, SPRING 1978.

CHANGES

You will already have noticed several changes in this issue. We have a new, and more legible logo, which we hope carries some flavour of our bibliographic efforts - the old logo was chosen for its similarity to the gothic heads of some newspapers and the whole post-Caxton era; the new one suggests that our roots go even further back into the manuscript millenia. Hope you like it!

The opportunity for the logo change came up with our change of address. Our long-time friends at the central London SF and comic bookshop, Dark They Were & Golden Eyed, suggested using their premises as a base (for which our thanks go to Derek Stokes). This made further good sense by the fact that Stan Nicholls, who is taking over the job of looking after our sub and mailing affairs, also works there. I'd like to express publicly my sincere appreciation to Paul Devereux and the Ley Hunter staff (especially Kay Thompson) who allowed FT to share their PO Box, and who collected the mail for us for the last year and a half, often putting themselves out for us out of pure friendship and kindness.

However, travel and time restrictions on both of us made meeting Paul more than once a week very difficult, and I was beginning to find that a week's delay (sometimes more) on the mail was creating problems I didn't need. Paul and I will continue to meet once a week though to talk over matters of mutual interest to FT and TLH.

So we ask you all to update your address books with FT's new address, but please note that the full address must be used (part of the conditions) and ask you to include "c/o Dark They Were & Golden Eyed", which may be abbreviated to "c/o DTWAGE".

TRUSS FUND

in which we gratefully acknowledge the donations of the following: David Dunthorn, Bill Figorski, SN Morgan, Steve Ogden, JW Scaife, Mike Ward, Douglas K Watson, Ms AF Wood, & Geoffrey Chibbett (in memory of Harold SW Chibbett).

Other Editorial items:

Fortean Computer project - - - - - 17
Errata - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 20
Tout for more readers - - - - - - - 20
Binders - - - - - - - - - - - - - - 38
Obituaries - - - - - - - - - 32 & 43

From the small heap of notes we have on things zipping around us in Earth-local space, and appearing in our skies if not our telescopes, we have had or are having a hazardous time lately.

NEW PLANETS etc

There seems something portentious about the number of new 'planets' being spotted. Progres Soir (Lyon, France) 6 Jan 1977, opened the year with the announcement of a Mexican mathematician, Jacinto Amor de la Pena, that after years of calculations he had finally pinpointed the 10th planet, which he called 'Jano'. He is not dismayed by the fact that no observatory has yet seen the planet he claims is 8,790,000,000km from the sun, completing its orbit every 450yrs, resting on the ancient tradition in astronomy of prediction before discovery. Forteans know that the actual history of such wonders of 'scientific prediction' are murky to say the least - see Fort's New Lands and Lo! for insights. (Cr: Phil Ledger.)

On the evening of 3 Nov 1977, Chinese astronomers, at Tzuchinshan, near Nanking, spotted a fast-moving, blurred celestial body which they considered a new comet. Los Angeles Times, South China Morning Post both 8 Nov 1977 (Cr: Colin Johnson, Ron Dobbins.) About a month previously, the Bangkok World announced, incredibly, that Soviet "astrologers" (sic) had found a "new constellation" (sic), meaning Russian astronomers had located a new comet against the constellation of Pisces. Whether this relates to the Chinese discovery we know not, but two in a month...gee! Bangkok World 6 Sept 1977 (Cr: I Will.)

Early in Nov 1977, Charles Kowal, of Mt Palomar Observatory, announced the discovery of a new body in the Solar system - it could be a new class of asteroid, or the 10th and smallest planet. Between 100-400 miles in diameter, it is smaller than the largest asteroid between Mars and Jupiter, and its orbit is way out beyond the usual asteroid belt, taking it across the orbit of Uranus, whose own previously undetected rings were telescopically revealed earlier that March. Kowal later named the object 'Chiron', though there is some uncertainty as to its proper classification; not properly an asteroid or planet, Kowal suggests 'planetoid'. But Dr Brian Marsden of the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams says computer tracking studies of its orbit indicate the elliptical characteristics of cometary objects. A closer look will have to wait until the 1990s. Kowal found the object during analysis of photographic plates taken on the nights of 18 & 19 Oct. For confirmation Kowal asked Dr Tom Gehrels to examine plates of the same portion of sky Gehrels had exposed at the University of Arizona on the nights of 11 & 12 Oct. A graduate at CalTech found the same object on plates exposed on the nights of 3 & 4 Nov. Los Angeles Times 8 Nov; Indianapolis Star 9 Nov & 11 Dec; Daily Mirror 11 Nov & 3 Dec; Sunday Statesman (Delhi) 27 Nov; General News (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) 11 Dec; South China Morning Post 21 Dec; Daily Telegraph 21 Dec 1977 (Cr: Kurt Lothmann, Ron Dobbins, Lucius Farish, Sam, Ion Will, Colin Johnson, Ian Lawes.)

SOME CLOSE SHAVES...

No sooner was Chiron labled than more asteroids headed our way. One, estimated to be nearly a mile in diameter, zipped by within 8 million miles of us on 15 March. A slightly larger one came within 12 million miles on 8 March. Both had been discovered by Dr Hans-Emil Schuster of the observatory at La Silla, Chile, earlier in Feb. It was said the closest known pass of a similar object was in 1937 when the asteroid Hermes squeaked by only ½ million miles away. Evening News (Harrisburg, Pa) 14 March; New Straits Times (KL, Malaysia) 17 Mar; Sun (Sydney, Aust) 21 March 1978. (Cr: Larry Arnold, Ion Will.)

LIGHTS IN THE SKY

Of the many kinds and reports of luminous phenomena seen in our skies, we just have room for two astronomical

ones.

From midnight to dawn on 11-13 Aug, the public was told in advance, sky-watchers would be able to see many fiery 'shooting stars' throughout the world, as lumps of rock and ice from the close passage of Comet Temple-Swift burn up in the atmosphere. Daily Telegraph 3 Aug 1977 (Cr: Mrs V Martin). We don't remember whether this prediction came true or not, so we consulted our crude but right trusty day-log card-file. Nothing much for 11th except a 5.5 Richter tremor in Japan. 12 Aug saw a 4.4 Richter tremor in California, a mystery light off Bognor Regis, Sussex, believed at the time to be a plane crashing into the sea or a shooting star; and several witnesses to UFOs at Russ Green, Essex. (Full stories and sources will be given in future citations.) 13 Aug saw a late night rain of yellow "dust" on Springwell Estate, Sunderland. There were other events in this period - polt, accidents, attacks on animals, 'Son of Sam' caught, and the loony on the crane in France scattering his money to the wind (see 'Falls' this issue) - quite a Fortean period in fact; but it's also possible that those lights seen on the 12th were cometary debris.

A similar situation to the phantom plane crash at Bognor Regis (above) was caused on a larger scale by a meteor "as big as a house" (according to one witness) that trailed across the southern USA on the night of 18 Oct. At about 8pm CDT, the bright object was seen by witnesses in Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Louisiana, causing phone lines to all authorities and media to be jammed with calls ranging from fears of a Martian invasion, to the object landing on a relative's house. Two plane crashes were reported as witnesses saw fiery material plummet earthwards, and many callers claimed the meteor had come down in their yards. SAC radar, in Nebraska, tracked the object as it "fell apart" in the air - confirmed by an Air Force pilot, in a jet at 16,000ft, who saw the object "light up my cockpit and split up into bits and pieces" at an estimated altitude of near 55,000ft. Texarkana Gazette, Northwest Arkansas Times (printed in Fayetteville, folks - see Grimstad article this issue), Log Cabin Democrat (Ark), Marshall News Messenger (Tx) all 19 Oct 1977 (Cr: Lou Farish, Tom Adams.)

Our card-file revealed another synchronicity here: 18 Oct was also the first night Kowal photographed Chiron unawares. Also...the night the CalTech graduate photographed Chiron unawares, 3 Nov, astronomers in China were spotting their new comet. These are Fortean times!

DUCK THE JUNK

One of the theories put forward to account for the series of mystery booms on the East coast of N America - more in desperation than good sense - was the explosion of re-entering space junk. Within a few weeks that's what really did happen. We had to smirk at that one! Apparently Russia's Cosmos 954 satellite was punctured by a meteorite and its orbit decayed sufficiently for it to threaten to come down in North America. Most of it burned up on re-entry - hardly a comforting prospect as it had on board about 100lbs of Uranium 235. As it happened the debris eventually located east of the Great Slave Lake in Canada had far less radioactivity than originally feared. It was a remote area - it could have been much worse! The crash and search for debris was covered in most of the world's papers between 24 Jan and 2 Feb 1978. (Thanks to our regular clipsters for material.)

As an aside, we might mention that one paper told of two tiny townships in the initial estimated danger zone, called Fort Radium and Uranium City!

Other notes of space-junk on file: A UFO widely sighted over northern Japan on 26 Oct 1977 was said by Japanese government sources to be the remains of a satellite shot down by a Soviet 'killer satellite'. A US Defence Dept spokesman said this looked like the third such test of a Soviet 'killer' satellite. South China Morning Post 12 Nov 1977. Similarly, a UFO that "crashed" near Tlaxcala, Mexico, on 16 Jan 1978, was said to be the cremation of a dead US satellite. South China Morning Post 18 Jan 1978 (Cr: both, Colin Johnson.)

Not really a space-junk story, but related in a way... No sooner had the hoohar over the Canadian spy satellite crash died away than a Rolling Stone journalist, Howard Kohn, claimed that the CIA had hired mountaineers to plant a spying device powered by 10lbs of Plutonium 238 on the high slopes of Nanda Devi on the Indian border, to monitor China's atomic experiments in Sinkiang Province. However, the device was swept away in an avalanc and Mr Kohn alleges the outer casing will rust away in 10yrs to raise the serious possibility of nuclear pollution of the headwaters of the Ganges, India's holy river. Official investigation was demanded of President Carter...but we've heard no more on this. London Evening Standard 13 April 1978.

SEE LAST MINUTE NOTE ON p 8, col 1... RJMR

FATEFUL FAYETTE

by BILL GRIMSTAD

'What's in a name?' – that handy phrase condensed from Shakespeare – has been forcibly retired by many American editors these days. Perhaps rightly: it does tend to find its way with frequency into stories and headings. The saying obviously fills some need. But I will avoid using it here, mainly because the answer to its question, usually left dangling, is the subject of this little disquisition. That is, I will assume for the moment that there is an answer . . . somewhere.

The American writer John Keel was, so far as I know, the first to notice name-frequency correlations in paranormal events. In his deceased magazine, *Anomaly*, Keel observed that the name McDaniel has recurred at far greater than random rate. A man named McDaniel was confronted by a three-legged 'creature' at his farm near Enfield, Illinois, in 1973. Another family of that name was the centre of the 1966-67 'Mothman' episode in West Virginia; and a man named McDaniel was involved in an encounter with 'the Devil' in the Catskill Mountains of New York in the 1870s. [1]

My candidate for this peculiar nomenclature is the name Fayette and its variants Lafayette and Fayetteville, which appear in a number of localities scattered across America. In the course of cataloguing all sorts of weirdities, I soon noted the frequency with which 'Things', as Ivan Sanderson used to call them, arise in conjunction with this name.

The historically minded might think first of the prestigious Marie Joseph Paul Roch Motier de Lafayette, the French revolutionary general and statesman who played such a role in the early years of the United States. Lafayette travelled widely in this country and doubtless must have been the inspiration for many or most of the 18-odd counties and 28 towns and cities across the land that I have been able to find with some form of his name.

But not all of them, apparently. In New England, the name first appears on a divergent site in 1759, when Elder Paul Coffin noted in his diary that 'There is Magic and Witchcraft in Fayette' (state of Maine). He referred particularly to the 'Moving Arm Ghost', said to rise up from the spring near Jolly Hollow with a copper dipper for thirsty passersby, while at least accommodating times, something irritably splashes water on those visiting the spring. 1759 is but two years after Marquis de Lafayette was born, in France, so there must have been some earlier naming antecedent. [2]

In a moment, I would like to come back to what some regard as the darker side of Marquis de Lafayette, together with some of the more sinister manifestations connected today with his name. But first, let me take a quick skim through my Fayette case file.

In Fayette County, Alabama, is the Musgrove Methodist Cemetery. The tombstone of one Robert L. Musgrove there bears a discoloration, not specially realistic, that is locally believed to be the bridal-veiled figure of Musgrove's fiancée. Apparently he was killed just before the wedding, and the sorrowing girl decal'd her outline onto the marble by her many visits to the grave.

The enigma-laden state of Arkansas has two sites. The city of Fayette-ville, in the northwest corner, has long been legendary for oddities. UFO and aerial lightshows, water monsters in the nearby White River and Springheel Jack-type window peepers are among the manifestations. In the southwest angle of Arkansas is a Bigfoot hotspot that has been immortalised, in America at least, by the movie *Legend of Boggy Creek*. The critters have been known hereabouts since 1856, centring their activities lately upon the town of Fouke in Miller County and ranging eastward into adjacent Lafayette County.

In the scenic Bluegrass area of Kentucky, the university city of Lexington sits atop one of America's more dramatic lost cave stories. Historian G.W. Ranck recorded in 1872 that hunters in 1776 had found a tunnel behind a rock panel of 'peculiar workmanship' and covered with hieroglyphs. The descending portal widened to a sort of gallery running downward a few hundred feet to a huge underground room. Ranck cited the hunters' reports that this chamber contained idols, altars and about 2,000 human mummies. Although the entrance to the amazing cavern was (of course) lost, there still are cave true-believers who poke about looking for the weird mausoleum beneath this part of Fayette County.

In a famous travelling cat incident of a few years back, Chat Beau, a four-year-old male, successfully located his human family in Texarkana, Texas, after they had moved 300 miles from Lafayette, Louisiana. [3]

Followers of ghost lore may have heard of the recent antics of a supposed phantom in Lilac Hill, a large old farmhouse at Fayette, Missouri. A number of psychically sensitive individuals have been trying to discern what is troubling the alleged spirits, of whom there are said to be at least two. [4]

In New York State, a farm near Cardiff, ten or so miles south of Syracuse, was the starting point in October 1869 for one of the more sensational fossil controversies. The 'Cardiff Giant' is still displayed at a museum near Cooperstown: although it has long since been dismissed as a total hoax, there are some puzzling aspects to the case that seem to make it a bit less than 'open and shut'. I cannot explore these now, but will merely note that many legitimate instances of petrification of animal and human remains have been reported from this area of Onondaga County south and east of Syracuse.

I must also note a certain historical confusion that I have not yet resolved: the modern city of Fayetteville, lying ten miles east of Syracuse, is some distance farther from Cardiff than was the 19th century town of La Fayette, which appears from contemporary accounts to have been only a short way from the 'Giant's' point of origin.

At this writing I am awaiting exact information from New York sources. I hope that this also will help elucidate an episode several decades earlier which, although little noted at the

time, was to have great consequence in the history of religious movements. It was in April of 1830 that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) was founded by Joseph Smith and a few disciples – who claimed to have received more than a little help from certain 'angelic' friends in the neighbourhood. The place: Fayette, New York. Today, the Mormon Church is the fastest-growing Christian denomination in America, if not the world.

Another haunted house story takes us to an American state that perhaps rivals New York and Arkansas in the number and interest of its anomalies. It also brings us back across the trail of the peripatetic Marquis de Lafayette. This is the A.S. Slocumb mansion, located in the North Carolina city of Fayetteville. The Slocumb house is supposed to have a number of spectral occupants. It also has, or had, a secret vault in the basement and at least one tunnel leading to the Cape Fear River channel – which river has historically been the site of many Bigfoot reports.

Local records connect the Slocumb house with the affairs of the mysterious Bank of the United States (hence the vault), which was extirpated by the forces of President Andrew Jackson, amid charges of all sorts of hair-raising conspiracies. Whether Lafayette's own recorded visits to the house have any connexion with either the ghosts or the conspiracies is, unfortunately, not recorded.

Early this year, the United States experienced one of its most severe winters. Certain places were especially belaboured with extreme cold and repeated snowstorms. As of February 3, 1977, the National Weather Service announced that the 'hardest hit area' of the north-central states region was Fayette County, Ohio, about 44 miles southeast of Dayton. [5] In 1897, however, during the celebrated 'great phantom airship' excitement that swept across the country, Fayette County skies had been decorated with flurries of a different kind: mysterious paper balloons and kites, which are now usually described as the work of 'pranksters' inspired by the publicity growing from the cavortings of the 'airship'. [6]

As soon as spring arrived this year (1977), a farming area in north-western Ohio began experiencing a different sort of bedevilment. By early May, 140 sheep, five peacocks and possibly a dog were mysteriously killed by a something that tore out their throats. Footprints resembling those of a large felid were found. In mid-May, a motorcyclist was swept off the road by a mysterious force that he was at a loss to describe afterward. All of these untoward events occurred in the vicinity of Fayette, Ohio. [7]

Whether the hobby exists in other countries I do not know, but a very widespread diversion in America is the search for lost treasures. There are countless books and magazines on the subject, although if I were to do one I would focus on the obvious psychological factors at work. The 'treasures', real or imagined, seem to be more a pretext to go rambling off in search of the legendary lost than a quest of wealth per se.

Treasure stories time and again display Fortean aspects. One that suits the present purpose is the story of 'Braddock's gold', in which the British general of that name is said to have lost a wagon-load containing his own personal fortune and the crown revenues for his campaign. In 1755, Braddock's force was routed by a French and Indian attack not far from Fort Cumberland, on the Monongahela River. The gold wagon disappeared and has been fervidly sought by treasurologists ever since. Somewhere along the way, and presumably after the fact, the area became incorporated into Fayette County, Pennsylvania. [8]

Ordinarily, the Bigfoot phenomenon expresses only a fugitive interest in human situations, skulking in the shadows of lovers lanes, metal trailer houses (accidental Reichian 'orgone boxes'?) and women undergoing their menstrual periods. However, one of these hairy horrors became rather more aggressive on April 23, 1976, when it attempted to carry off a four-year-old boy from his backyard on a farm in Tennessee.

A sheriff's posse pursued the entity and seems to have shot enough high-powered rifle fire into it to have felled King Kong* himself. However, as if tiring of the game, the creature finally leaped out of its cul-de-sac and simply vanished. These events occurred within a few miles of the hamlet of Fayetteville. [9].

In Fayette County, West Virginia, atop a low peak named Mt. Carbon, is one of the more curious ancient remains in North America. This is a series of semicircular and V-shaped stone 'windrows' strung out along the mountaintop. Archaeologists so far have been at a loss to explain such hilltop stone workings, which are also found in New England and in certain Western states.

Another Bigfoot-type creature was seen in Lafayette County, Wisconsin, in early September, 1970. It was seven feet tall with whitish fur and the usual shiny red eyes. More than 50 persons from the vicinity of Benton joined in a search for it, but were unable to find anything. [10] In 1936, an amateur aviator touched off a still hotly debated question around Rock Lake, which lies midway between Madison and Milwaukee in the southeast quarter of Wisconsin. A resident of the neighbouring town of Lake Mills, this pilot claimed that he had seen what looked like manmade rock structures beneath the shallow waters. The flyer's name: Fayette Morgan.

Recently, there has been a renewed Rock Lake controversy in underwater diving circles with amateurs claiming that they have rediscovered the 'pyramids', while professional underwater archaeologists sternly denounce such foolishness. [11]

Now I would like to consider some examples of more ominous character. We find the 'Lafayette factor' in the Abraham Lincoln assassination in the 1860s, although admittedly in comparatively trival ways. A slippery character named Lafayette had been brought in to head the Secret Service by the enigmatic Edwin Stanton, President Lincoln's arrogant secretary of war. Otto Eisenschiml, the pioneer revisionist historian of this amazingly crude murder conspiracy, delved into the story as far as the surviving evidence would allow.

His findings suggest that Lafayette Baker and Stanton had manoeuvred to facilitate the escape into the South of assassin John Wilkes Booth, and when that proved impossible (owing to his unexpected broken leg), to assure that the killer was *not* brought back alive and that his evidently incriminating diary did not survive intact. But the full story will have to be sought in the writings of Otto Eisenschiml. [12]

At the same time as the President was being shot in the theatre box, his secretary of state, William Seward, was attacked and savagely knifed by a deranged giant named Lewis Paine who had forced his way into the Seward home. This house fronted upon Lafayette Square, just across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House. Washington's resident ghost expert, journalist John Alexander, has written of this square:

> As you read these tales involving many of the residents of the square, you may find yourself in agreement with Washingtonians who refer to it as 'Tragedy Square'. No other section of Washington has had so much intrigue, mystery, murder and macabre happenings as has the area directly opposite 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue . . . [13]

Ironically, Secretary Seward had had a different brush with the Lafayette vector himself a few months before the assassination. A man named John Yates Beall had been convicted of spying for the Confederacy and was sentenced to die. Apparently this was another of those many cases in which there was much more than has met the official eye of history, for somebody or other galvanised a surprising number of Establishment bigwigs, who brought great pressure upon Lincoln to commute the death sentence.

However, it was Seward who reportedly encouraged the

*–KK, of course, had a crush on *Fay* Wray – Ed!

President to stand firm, and Beall was accordingly hanged at Fort Lafayette near New York City's 'Hell Gate' – on February 24, 1865. An insight into the bizarre affair emerged some years later when a close companion of Beall's at Fort Lafayette expressed his opinion that agent Beall may well have been involved in the planning of Lincoln's killing. Others were quick to infer that the attempt upon Seward may have been in retaliation for his insistence on executing Beall. [14]

Moving along almost a century, we find another grisly 'executive action' being carried out by conspirators unknown. According to New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison, one of the very few local authorities with the fortitude to carry out any kind of investigation of the John F. Kennedy killing, much of the actual planning of the 'hit' carried out in Dallas, Texas, was done in New Orleans.

The location: various sites centring on Lafayette Square and a decrepit office building just across Camp Street from it. In the *Warren Commission Report* on the assassination, the address of the building given is actually its side entrance: 531 Lafayette Street. [15]

On July 3, 1977, 23-year-old Gary Rock was charged on two counts of criminal homicide after two local volunteer firemen were killed by a sniper while responding to a fire alarm at Rock's isolated cabin, near Fayetteville, Pennsylvania [16]

On July 31, 1977, two young people sitting in a parked car along the Brooklyn, New York, seashore were shot several times by a mysterious assailant who had become known as the 'Son of Sam'. The girl, Stacy Moskowitz, died of her injuries; her companion, Robert Violante, suffered eye damage. Miss Moskowitz was an alumna of Lafayette High School. When she and Violante were shot, it was while they were sitting 'not far from Lafayette High School', according to the *New York Times*. [17]

I have other such instances in my files, but I think I have conveyed the general idea. What kind of interpretation can we make?

I suppose it might be argued that a similar case could be made by selecting any of a number of other names or places where 'Things' happen and then rummaging out enough incidents to suggest a pattern. If so, I haven't bothered to make the attempt. The Fayette factor was so obvious and so wisespread – an important aspect – that it required no forcing by me. Indeed, I have noted several other such names that seem to have a weird wont around the country: Bell (or Beall, as in the Lincoln conspiracy); Francis and St. Francis; Montpelier; Mount Vernon, and Parsons.

However, the number of instances I have found to date is far smaller than for Fayette. (There also is a very striking 'data cluster' pertaining to the mineral quartz, and it even has a tie-in of sorts with Fayette, but I must save that for consideration another time.)

So, what does it all mean? Merely a high order of 'coincidence' that for some reason happened to zero in on this name? It's possible, I suppose. I admit that I have nothing to fall back upon except my own intuition that there is more to the matter than this. But for those positivists inclined to dismiss possible anomalies too quickly on such semantic grounds, let me recommend a quick review of Fort's remarks on coincidence (for example, pages 849-850 in the *Complete Books* – New York, 1974). Arthur Koestler's recent *Roots of Coincidence* takes up where Charles Fort left off.

An 'explanation', I grant, is out of the question. Besides, who wants one, anyway? My first impulse is simply to analyse the word. Literally, the meaning would be something like 'little enchantment' or 'little fairy' (from the Old French root *feer*, 'to enchant', plus the feminine diminutive *-ette*). This much is easy. But of course I haven't the tiniest ghost (fayette?) of an idea how to parlay a word root into a mechanist scenario for the physical and psychical phenomena we have examined. Perhaps 'black arts' students of the technology of name magic used in controlling supposed supernatural entities can shed some light here.

My second suggestion could lead off into vast, trackless wastes of arcane speculation, so I will try to be as concise as possible. We must go back once more to Marquis de Lafayette for a topic that may not be totally persuasive to all, but which will, I hope, prove stimulating to the Fortean imagination, pro or contra.

In addition to his political pursuits, Lafayette was busily involved in certain circles that should be of interest to contemporary Illuminati buffs. A subject of the utmost interest to the intellectual elite of Lafayette's day is one that gives signs of a comeback, in this day of Kirlian 'auras' and subatomic particles imbued with 'charm' and Buddhahood by sobersides Ph.D. physicist types.

The subject then was known under the general heading of 'magnetism', and referred to a supposed biophysical energy that was felt to be innate to all organic processes, and to possess other powers verging on the magical. Although the general idea is said to date from Rosicrucians and alchemists of the middle ages, and has been investigated by people ranging from chemist Karl von Reichenbach ('Odyle') to psychoanalyst Wilhelm Reich ('Orgone'), perhaps its most famous exponent was Anton Mesmer, the Viennese physician whose findings led to the modern study of hypnotism.

But Mesmer also seems to have been active in that vague twilight zone where esoteric matters merge into the crypto-political; more than one writer on the Bavarian Illuminati has identified him as a member of that group. Another suspected member was the colourful Cagliostro, the subject of much speculation by Charles Fort who seems to have regarded him as a virtual byword for the inherent trickiness and fraudulence of the visible universe. Although I do not have any evidence at hand, there seems little question that Cagliostro must have been *en rapport* with Mesmer when the former set up his 'Magnetic'Masonry' as an offshoot of the Egyptian Masonry by which he was cutting such a wide swath in French high society, and laying such fateful groundwork for the upheaval to come in 1789.

According to the contemporary American scholar Manly Palmer Hall, one of the more levelheaded writers on the extremely convoluted and controversial history of 'occult' matters, Lafayette was affiliated with both of these fateful men:

> . . . In 1785 the Marquis . . . joined the Egyptian Masonry of Cagliostro and proclaimed his absolute confidence in the Grand Cophte. When Anton Mesmer arrived from Vienna with his theories of animal magnetism, Lafayette was one of his first customers. [18]

But Lafayette also had the closest ties with Benjamin Franklin, the American revolutionary sage (and member of Dashwood's crypto-Satanist 'Hell-Fire Club' in Britain). As Hall puts it:

> Benjamin Franklin was a philosopher and a Freemason – possibly a Rosicrucian initiate. He and the Marquis de Lafayette – also a man of mystery – constitute two of the most important links in the chain of circumstance that culminated in the establishment of the original thirteen American colonies as a free and independent nation. [19]

Lafayette, Hall summarises, 'is a direct link between the political societies of France and the young American government. [20]

What I have to ask (perhaps never to learn the answer) is whether this 'man of mystery' was involved in anything other than the vague deism and 'rights of man' posited by the public face of the secret societies which worked behind the backdrop of the supposedly spontaneous American Revolution. Was this 'magnetism'-steeped gentilhomme whose celebrated

tours about America were virtual Masonic pilgrimages from one prominent lodge to another actually an adept of sorts?

There is a very strong tradition in New Orleans that Lafayette made a special point of meeting the powerful Voodoo queen, Marie Laveau, when he made his spectacular visit there in April 1825. In fact, Laveau herself insisted that the general had even kissed her on the forehead. As historian Raymond Martinez points out, in his *Mysterious Marie Laveau:*—

> In justice to those who think that Lafayette may have been interested in seeing Marie, it is fair to state that he had been at one time a patient of Franz Anton Mesmer, who introduced into general medicine magnetic therapy based on the laying on of hands. [21]

Voodoo, it would appear, is intensely magnetic.

Does all of this hint at the ever tantalising links between Fortean phenomena and esoteric matters? Was the possible Illuminist Lafayette a magician of such power that the mere application of his name has been eough ever since to make a given place 'act up'? Or was he himself a mere unwitting function of the Fayette factor?

Bill Grimstad — 1977.

Notes of References

1 *Anomaly, a Journal of Forteana, no. 10,* Nov. 1973, p.189.

2 *Kennebec Journal,* Augusta, Maine, Oct. 30, 1976.

3 *Time.* July 18, 1972, p. 91.

4 *Fate,* July 1977, p.28.

5 'All Things Considered', National Public Radio, Feb. 3, 1977.

6 *Cyclone and Fayette Republican,* Washington Court House, Ohio, April 22, 1897; cited by G.M. Eberhart, 'The Ohio Airship Story', *Pursuit,* no. 37, Winter 1977, p.4.

7 *Lima,* Ohio, *News,* May 6, 1977; *Bluffton,* Ohio, *News* May 5 & 19, 1977.

8 *Lost Treasure,* Sept. 1977, p.29.

9 *National Enquirer,* June 29, 1976.

10 *Bridgeport,* Connecticut, *Post,* Sept. 5, 1970.

11 *Skin Diver,* Jan. 1970, pp. 24ff.

12 Otto Eisenschiml, *Why was Lincoln Murdered?* Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1937, *passim.*

13 John Alexander, *Ghosts: Washington's Most Famous Ghost Stories.* Washingtonian Books, Washington, D.C. 1975, p.33.

14 Eisenschiml, *op. cit.,* p.375.

15 Jim Garrison, *A Heritage of Stone.* New York 1970, pp.79, 94ff.

16 Associated Press dispatch. *Tampa,* Florida, *Tribune,* July 4, 1977.

17 *New York Times,* Aug. 1, 1977, p. 34C.

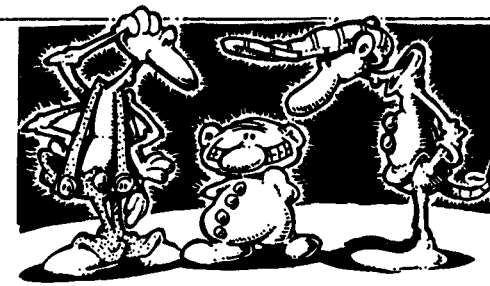
18 Manly Palmer Hall, *America's Assignment With Destiny,* Philosophical Research Society, Los Angeles, 1951, pp. 88-89. What could be more appropriate to this peculiar name game than that Hall draws heavily upon the learned French historian Bernard Fay for his account of this period?

19 M.P. Hall, *An Ecyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Cabbalistic, and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy.* Philos. Research Soc. Los Angeles, 1962, 16th ed., p. cc.

20 M.P. Hall, *America's Assignment With Destiny, op. cit.,* p.94

21 R.J. Martinez, *Mysterious Marie Laveau,* Harmonson, New Orleans, undated, pp. 32-33. Robert Tallant, *Voodoo in New Orleans,* Collier, New York, 1962, p.41.

from p4 -- as we go to press the Sunday Times 21 May 1978 reports a monumental row in the Indian parliament, with former PM, Indira Gandhi, being accused of concealing an authorisation for USA to install a second device in 1967.



HUMAN CURIOSITIES

Last issue, in our review section, we reviewed two very important books on wolf children - important for their insight and research as well as the fact that any book on the subject of feral children is a rare and welcome event. Since then we have two incidents - one a rescue, and one a feral child report - giving us an opportunity to herewith plop the contents of our feral-children file before your gaze. (These reports have accumulated since we last dealt with the subject in FT3.)

LITTLE RED RIDINGHOOD...

One case we seem to have missed even from FT3 was from 1970. Six year-old Elmira Godayatova had travelled through a wood to visit her grandmother, in Azerbaijan, USSR . Her grandmother, (who does not appear to have had big teeth, eyes and ears), told her to go back home...but the girl never arrived back. After desperate searches for 23 days, she was found exhausted, sitting under a tree deep in the woods. When she told her story, it became evident she had been sheltered by wolves. She said she had eaten berries and drank water from springs, and played with wonderful "doggies and puppies". Times, Daily Mirror 4 July 1970 (Cr: Janet Bord, Anthony Smith.)

The whole delightful episode parallels the story (on FT3/4) of a modern 'Goldilocks' - a 5yr-old, lost in woods in Jugoslavia, who spent the night with a bear and her cubs, in 1971.

One of the recent stories is about another 'Little Red Ridinghood', this time - a real surprise this - back in Azerbaijan, USSR (given in one source as Azerbeidjan), near the Caspian Sea, involving a 3yr-old girl, Mekhriban Ibragimov. She became lost overnight in a snow-filled ravine, and was found 16hrs later sheltering in a cave with a wolf and her three cubs. The girl said: "A big wolf licked my face. I snuggled up and she kept me warm. The

little puppies cried." The searchparty retrieved the human cuckoo and left the hospitable wolves in happy peace. Sunday Sun (Australia) 29 March 1978; & News of the World 9 April 1978 (Cr: Ion Will, Sam.) SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST 29 MAR (Cr: Colin Johnson)

MONKEY BOY

One big case, now old news, deserves a summary in FT - the monkey-boy of Burundi, in Central Africa. He was found by a party of missionaries, playing in a group of monkeys. In fact when he first scampered towards them on all fours, they thought he was a monkey. Other sources say hunters found him. Although some reports say he was found in 1975, it seems clear from later reports that the boy was actually found two years earlier, but had spent the time in a madhouse at Bujumbura, the Burundi capital. In 1975 there was an attempt to rehabilitate him. The boy was aged about six, had a slightly enlarged head, and without doubt the manners and behaviour of a monkey, most of the news stories claimed. Daily Mirror 22 Nov 1975, News of the World 23 Nov 1975, National Enquirer 24 Feb 1976, Weekend 3 March 1976, Observer (Magazine) 28 March 1976 (NB: this has good colour photo of the boy)(Cr: Sam, *Anthony Smith, John Michell).*

These reports must have attracted some professional attention because Dr Harlan Lane, who must have been putting the finishing touches to his brilliant study of The Wild Boy of Aveyron at the time, flew to Nairobi's Kenyatta National Hospital to examine the boy, with his colleague Dr Richard Pillard, both of Boston, Mass. After two weeks of "the most sophisticated analysis of the consequences of an extended period of living in the wild that has yet been possible," the doctors pronounced that the boy's condition was due to suffering "disastrous illness" at the age of two resulting in organic retardation. The NYT, reporting the press conference when the doctors returned to Boston, said they claimed to have accounted for every year in the boy's life. "He was never in the wild. For one thing there are no monkeys in that part of the country. It's densely populated. He was cared for at three orphanages, and spent three years in an adult psychiatric ward of a hospital," Dr Lane said. "His history had been lost because of inadequately kept records in a country with a strong oral tradition." So there you have it - we should have suspected something when different papers gave the kid different names, John, Charles, Francois, etc. Still...something niggles, that ole Fortean suspicion that rises when a mystery is easily and authoritatively dismissed or explained. Some of the earlier reports, particularly the Nat.Enq one (above), quote local people and officials who seemed convinced the boy had lived among monkeys; and according to an American anthropologist they interviewed, Diane Skelly, who had studied the child, the boy's body had been covered in a fine layer of hair when he was brought in, which soon disappeared once he took to wearing clothes. Such details must be accounted for fully before we can accept or dismiss the case. Daily Mirror 15 May 1976, unidentified US clipping, apx May 1976; Daily Mirror, Daily Express, Newport News (Va) Daily Press all 4 June 1976; New York Times 9 June 1976. (Cr: Bob Forrest, Ion Will, P Hope-Evans, Gary L Abbott, Nigel Watson, Mike Rickard, Mark Hall.)

KANGEROO GIRL

About the time of the 'monkey-boy' of Burundi, came reports of a half naked white-skinned girl seen living wild, sporting with kangeroos, in the Australian outback. She was named 'The Nymph *of Nullabor', after the desert of that name. Somewhere around this room,* in the heaps of files and clippings, is a report on her from Newsweek, but a whole day's search for it proved as fruitless as the searches for the girl herself. So, with much deep-blushing we'll move on to stories with data to hand, pausing only to promise to give you the details on 'the Nymph' when they surface...

BUFFALO GIRL

Almost as improbable as a 'kangeroo-girl'...but why not when we've feasted on such delights as the 'gazelle-boy' (FT4/14)...

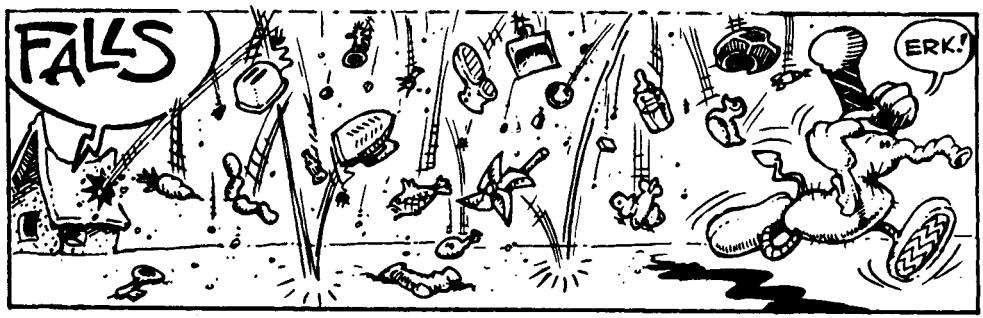
Hunters in the jungles of Sri Lanka spotted a naked teenaged girl several times living with a herd of buffaloes. They claim that she was an illigitimate child who was abandoned in the jungle, then found and reared by some female buffaloes. The story is classic in its simplicity and interpretation and conforms to worldwide archaic traditions, both of disposing of 'embarassing' children, and of animal charity towards same...usually, though, in myth, such children grow to be heroes. Daily Mirror 8 Nov 1976.

Continued overleaf

BEAR BOY

About mid-April this year the story emerged of a boy, about 8yrs-old, found in a bear's cave in the jungles of Lucknow, India - fortunately, the hunters said, the 'parent' was out hunting for food. The story came to light because the boy was taken from the jungle village(where he was kept in a cage by villagers for at least a year) by nuns of Mother Teresa's famous Sisters of Charity order, in Lucknow. According to the scant details we have, the boy seems medically and psychologically capable of improving and learning. The Universe (India) 28 April 1978, The Herald (Australia) 19 Apr 1978 (Cr: Ion Will, H Thomas.)

RJMR



Forteans should never be amazed at the wonders of the universe, but I guess we're only human... The fact is that there has been an amazing accumulation of falling-material stories in recent years, as you may have noticed from our own coverage. Next issue we'll give you falling webs, hay and other veg matter, and some of the very recent ice-falls. But for now we'll deal with stones and artifacts...

BOLTS FROM THE BLUE etc

Firstly some notes on stuff falling, or apparently falling, from planes. W. Ritchie Benedict sent us an unfortunately undated Canada Press wire item from 1955 - that a piece of hot metal, about 9" long, plunged from the sky, embedding itself in a hole smashed in the wall of Mrs Agnes Joyce's home in Vancouver, BC. Mrs Joyce claimed it was still hot when she picked it up. It looked like part of a propeller, but there were no reports of aircraft in trouble over the city at that time.

Better authentification can be offered for the 7lb bolt that smashed through the roof of 80-yr-old Violet Collard's bedroom, at her home at Alma Rd, Windsor, Berks, rebounded off the floor and flew up to the ceiling again, finally coming to rest under her bed. Like ice-fall cases, it was blamed on a passing plane for which there seems to be no substantive evidence. Daily Express 12 Oct 1972.

When such identification is ever made it is quickly and obviously positive. Eg: part of a Rolls Royce engine on a TWA Jumbo jet fell off on a flight from Chicago to Los Angeles. Daily Express 12 Jan 1973.

A couple of interesting cases happened last year. On 25 April, a Lufthansa Boeing 737 landed safely at Heathrow after radioing that it had been "hit by something" in mid-flight. On landing it was clear the side had been hit a glancing blow by a hard falling object. Part of the flight was over a Belgian military zone, so they naturally assumed... London Evening News 25 April 1977.

On 16 Aug, RAF experts were called in to identify two "smoke-blackened pieces of alloy" that fell out of the sky over March, Cambridgeshire. No further reports appeared in the papers. Daily Express 17 Aug 1977. Interestingly, we had noted the very same day a light plane had taken off from a field in Berwickshire and apparently vanished - at least we saw no more reports. We send them planes, they send us blackened bits if they can be bothered! Daily Express 13 Aug 1977.

According to the Sunday Times 28 Aug 1977, that month had seen atleast three incidents of debris "falling from aircraft" to date, apparently unconnected. They mention one: a one-foot-square piece of metal fell "from 10,000ft", nearly hitting a mother and daughter in their garden at Crowborough, Sussex, on 20th Aug. Once again,the plane is implied rather than seen - after all,bits can only fall from planes. It would be too shocking to think of stuff waiting up there, or teleported there from cos-

mic junkheaps, waiting, then falling. The husband, Mr David Russell, thinking as anyone can be excused for thinking, that the chunk that nearly brained his wife and daughter had fallen from a plane, complained loudly to the Dept. of Trade - and they admitted the other similar reports. We don't know of the third incident ourselves. A predictable silence descended.

MODERN MANNA RAINS

In Phenomena John Michell and I gave some examples of coins and money falling from the sky, as welcome to the recipients below as was manna to the Israelites in the desert. (Phen.p19)

We remember hearing of a fall of silver coins in the Gorky region of Russia but were never able, til now, to get a literary fix on the datum. All credit to our wandering clipster, Ion Will, who saw it mentioned in the Sunday magazine of Calcutta. It seems that several thousand kopecks' worth fell on 17 June 1940, during a storm. It was surmised that a treasure had become uncovered in a landslide somewhere, and was picked up by a tornado and gifted to the people of Gorky. We note the novel use of a theory usually used to excuse falls of fishes, and that here, as there (if you follow me), no account is taken of the accompanying debris demanded by such a process. This time round, however, we have no smart data to back this up. Instead, it seems, easier ways have been found to work the miracle.

On 8 Oct 1976 a light plane 'bombed' Rome's Piazza Venezia with banknotes of 500, 1,000 and 10,000 denominations. Amazed police were said to be puzzled at being unable to find out who did it and why! Newport News (Va) Daily Press 10 Oct 1976, Reveille 7 Jan 1977 (Cr: GL Abbott, P Hope-Evans) In France, however, a businessman was nabbed for scattering more than £2000, in francs, from the top of a 150ft crane. He was taken by police to a mental clinic (they get no marks for imagination!) Reveille 12 Aug 1977... the incident happened at Nice!

In the quiet steel-town of Bethlehem, Pensylvania, police were called when a plumber had to fish out of a service-station toilet more than $3,000 in torn $100 bills, on 24 July 1977. On the 26th, a cleaning woman found another $1,000 in torn $100 bills clogging a restaurant toilet. Treasury officials say the money does not appear to be counterfeit; and the FBI said the bill-numbers do not match those of recent local robberies. Bafflement reigns! Someone, or something was obviously feeling flush - or perhaps he was round the bend! Dallas (Tx) Times Herald 27 July, Dallas Morning News 29 July 1977 (Cr: Tom R Adams.)

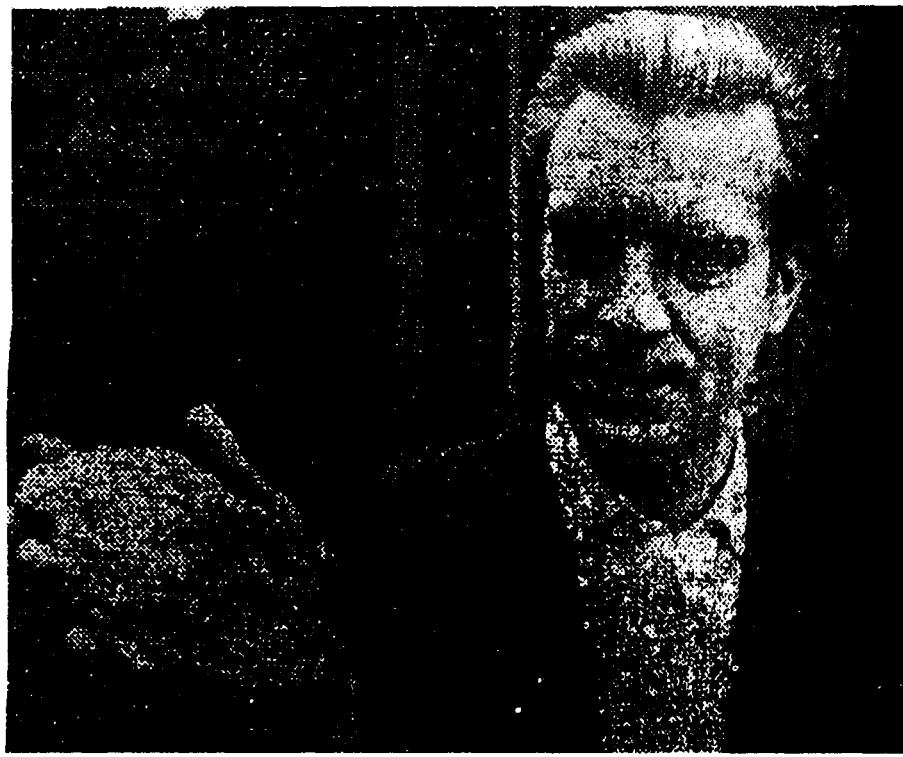
Tom's Fortean eye noted another Pennsylvania windfall -- the day after the second lot of bills went down the tube in Bethlehem, on 27 July, a broken sack scattered about $250,000 in $20 bills out of the back unlocked door of an armored bank truck in the rush-hour in a Philadelphia street. Despite the hectic grabbing that ensued police proudly claim that at least $242,000 had been recovered. Dallas Morning News 28 July 1977 (Cr: Tom Adams.) A similar incident happened in Nottingham, England. nearly 2 months later. On 2 Sept, a security van drove along a street showering loose change from its back. The money was recovered - the men sacked. Daily Telegraph 3 Sept 1977 (Cr: Sam.)

STONE-FALLS

I know some of the above were not 'proper' falls, but the following notes might atone.

On Saturday afternoon, on 12 July 1975, a rain of small stones lasting several seconds, astonished people in the rue des Tongres, Etterbeek,Belgium. The stones were black and sticky, and harmed no one. Police issued a statement of their suppositions; that the stones were meteoric, or that they had been lodged in the landing gear of planes flying into or out of nearby Zaventem airport and shaken loose overhead. Le Soir (Belgium) 15 July 1975 (Cr: Henri Prémont.)

I have had a not-close-enough encounter with a sticky stone before. On the evening of 12 May 1969, Mr Joe Bloomer, of Sycamore Rd, Aston, Birmingham, was working in his garden when something fell out of the sky to thump the path infront of him. It looked like a rock - apx 1½lbs and about 4"x3" - but was "warm and sticky" to the touch. It did not appear to be damaged, and "seemed to expand as it cooled down." The report, in Birmingham Evening Mail 13 May 1969 (it only appeared in the night-final edition), said that the 'rock' had been sent to 'scientists' at Birmingham University. My attempts to locate it, or anyone who knew about it, at B'ham U proved fruitless. I was even palmed off with the suggestion that the witness must have been thinking of the famous Barwell meteorite, the sense of which completely escaped me, as that happened in Leicestershire on 24 Dec 1965!!! I wrote to Mr Bloomer many



Joe Bloomer with the stone that nearly brained him, 12 May 1969, Birmingham.

times - once even offering to take him for a drink - but either I had got his name embarassingly wrong, or he didn't want to know. Unfortunately I could not go to his address. But there the matter lies for now. One bright aspect though: I managed to rescue, from the paper, a photo of the object held by Mr Bloomer (see this page). It was not taken by their staff photographer and they did not have a neg - all efforts to trace the photographer failed, so our apologies are proffered. We will keep this photo in the Fortean Picture Library (FPL) files, acting as agents until the owner can be established.

A more sinister and poltergeist-like case is said to have happened to Dr Olavo Trindade, a Brazilian surgeon, as he was driving with four friends, near midnight on 18 Sept 1975 on a deserted highway near Brazilia. The car began to overheat mysteriously, and as the driver got out to investigate, the car was bombarded "from every direction" by rocks. "It was a windless moonlit night with no one in sight. We sped away but the stones kept smashing against the car. We were racing toward a police station 2 miles down the road when something even more terrible happened. Right before my eyes a stone materialized out of nowhere inside the car and hit Mrs Queiroz on the head. Then it leaped over to (her nephew's wife) and hit her on the head. The women screamed. The car was sealed tight - there was no way the stone could have gotten inside. Incredibly, the rock barrage didn't stop until we reached the police station." Two policemen went back with them to the spot where it had begun. Suddenly all hell broke out once more. Police Sergeant Jorge Paos described his experience: "The moon was bright...and no one in sight...suddenly the stones began to crash against Dr Trindade's car. Officer Rambero and I searched both sides of the road, but there was nothing. Then weird clouds of dust rose up and swirled around the car, and to my horror I saw enormous human shapes inside the dust cloud - giant forms 8 or 9 feet tall. I tried to fire at them but my gun jammed." Rambero's gun had jammed as well. Dr Trindade added:

"We drove furiously back to the station, and all the way our car was surrounded by these giant humanoid shapes and flying rocks." At one point the driver stopped the car and tried to fire his own gun at the frightening forms - but his gun jammed too. As they resumed their journey, the locked doors sprung open and only with the greatest application of their strength could the passengers pull the doors shut as they sped along. By now the men were shouting as the women screamed - but one, Manoel Queiroz, began praying "to God" and the racket and forms quickly vanished. They were convinced they had been attacked by "forces of evil". Any of you interested in the phenomena of alleged UFO abductions and Close Encounter experiences will have recognized several details here, suggesting to us that both UFO and Fortean phenomena do merge with religious phenomena. How and why is anyone's guess at the moment. National Enquirer 24 Feb 1976.

We have given examples of such overlaps before - but here's the taste of another. According to the Sunday Times 3 Oct 1976, a bizarre "spiritual coup d'etat", in which an impressive number of Indonesian religious leaders were tricked into signing documents designed to oust President Suharto, was exposed in late Sept 1976. It centered on an obscure former government official, Sawito Kartowi, who had managed to harness the moral indignation of various closet dissenters by playing on their sympathies. Over the years we have glimpsed briefly the doings of Sawito, and weird they are too. We hope to give you them in more detail one day. But for now, we give you the tantalizing words of one of Sawito's dupes in publicly denouncing Sawito: he said that Sawito was a "lunatic" who claimed to receive messages from God "to oust President Suharto", after stones had fallen from heaven into his hand, with a portrait of Jesus on one side and himself on the other. The Times correspondent adds that it is by no means certain that Sawito is a mere crank. For one thing Sawito was in the same weird cult as several of his dupes... but I must stop calling them dupes, as we only have the Indonesian government's word on this, and they have no small vested interest in discrediting Sawito. But fancy, if he really had shamanistic powers... One final comment ...Forteans will be reminded by the alleged images on the stones, of Fort's case of the figured hailstones of Remirement (see Books p967f; if you don't have a copy, see p59 of Phenomena).

SOME EXOTIC FALLS

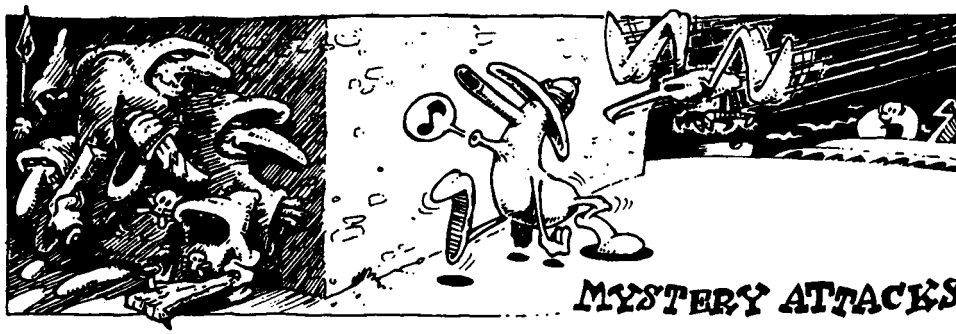
Beads -- One story that has fascinated me since I first heard of it, back in Fate Jan 1955 p9, impressed me so much I had to use it in Phenomena - it is about the periodic rains of small beads, at Bijori, India, of all sizes and colours, and holed ready for threading. Even in 1955 the phenomenon was acknowledged to happen after most rainstorms, "covering the fields" with beads. Once more to our magic clipster, Ion Will, goes credit for snipping another illuminating note, although he hadn't heard of it before himself. In New Thrills (Malaysia) 17 Aug 1977, the bead rains are said to be continuing today "in irridescent profusion". We ought to have the resources to investigate, but right now we don't. Let's hope they keep on raining till we do, and that the locals of Bijori, in Mandla district of Central Province keep on stringing the beads into the necklaces they call 'Sulaimandana' (King Soloman's Rosaries).

Bottles -- Our last datum merges into the 'phantom sniper' type of phenomena. A block of flats in Hamilton, New Zealand, was subject to a torrent of milk, beer, soft-drink and coffee bottles against its sides and roof for three consecutive days. After the first night, police and their dogs kept a vigil, but the onslaught, which began at 9.30pm, continued through to 1.30am. The same happened the next night, and the police confessed their inability to find any culprit/s. Maori elders, however, know precisely what has happened. The land was once forest, they say, and the spirits of the land in that area became offended. No firm dates can be offered for this story, but we'll be interested to hear from NZ readers who can look into it for us. Sunday Express 8 Dec 1974.

Finally...

A plea for some specialist help. Our reader, CW Murray, experienced a fall of strange hair-like filaments during a storm over Acton, London on a July evening, about 1964. He was quickwitted enough to gather some samples, which he has sent to us, and which we would like analysed or identified. Offers or suggestions would be most welcome as we have no contacts for this sort of expertise just yet. The other plea is to any London reader who may be able to remember such an event, or help us pinpoint the time.

RJMR



THE WAR ON MAN...

It seems to us highly justifiable when animals occasionally fight back against their conquerors; but the bulging girth of our file seems to indicate full-scale war has broken out! Alas, space limits us to a few brief selections here, but we'll return to the subject later...

THE ARMED STRUGGLE...

Tales of hunters shot by their own dogs are neither new nor uncommon.

Morton St. Philip, nr Bath: William Bull, 31, hunting moles, lay down to sleep and woke up with half his face blown away. His dog was alleged to have pawed the gun...with fatal results. Grimsby News, 27 Aug 1909. (Cr: N Watson).

Coburg, W. Germany. 7 Oct 74. Paul Jahn, 53, a millionaire, was shot to death when his dog jumped into the car and tangled his lead in the triggers. Times, 8 Oct 74, Weekly News, 11 Jan 75.(Cr: P Ledger, N Watson)

Erringden Moor, Yorks: Michael Kelly put his shotgun against a wall as he was climbing over, and his Setter puppy leapt against the trigger, shooting him in the shoulder. D. Mirror, Express, 28 Oct 78.

Luneville, France: A hunter leaned his gun against his hotel window. His dog jumped on it, and shot a passing soldier, again in the shoulder. Evening News, 8 Nov 76, D. Mirror, D. Express, 9 Nov 76, New Musical Express, 27 Nov 76. (Cr: P Hope-Evans).

And then everyone was doing it:

Chartres, France: Vincent Caroggio had shot 6 rabbits when he put his gun down for a drink. Lucky rabbit No 7 stuck his head out of his burrow, bumped into a trigger... and shot Caroggio dead. News of the World, 25 Jan 76 (Cr: N Watson)

Queensland, Australia: Aborigine Charlie Banjo tied a wild piglet to a loaded rifle. In its successful struggle to escape, the piglet shot him in the foot. Birmingham Evening Mail, 21 June 74. (Cr: R Willey).

Vienna, Austria: A young boar charged a hunter, got entangled in the rifle sling, and fired it. Alas, he missed. D. Mirror, 26 Feb 77.

Nr Sarzana, N. Italy: Francesco Cortesi, his wife and two sons went rabbit-hunting on their farm. A hen went with them, making so much noise it scared the rabbits away for 2 hours. Cortesi lost his temper and rushed at the hen...which promptly stepped on the trigger of his gun, and shot all four of them. Super-chicken got away, too... D. Telegraph, 12 Mar 77, Reveille, 1 Apr 77. (Cr: P Hope-Evans).

And doing it in spades...

San Bernadino, California: Whenever a farmer caught a coyote on his land, he would tie a stick of dynamite to its tail, light the fuse and chase the animal away. Thankfully, natural justice prevailed (though the punishment hardly seems adequate): one of the coyotes ran under his car and blew it up... News of the World: 29 Jan 78.

FERRETS.

Skegness, Lincs: The case of 9-yr old Linda Wright has received such extensive coverage (Most national daily and evening papers, 27, 28 Jan 78, Cr: many) that we shall be brief: Linda woke at 2am when she was savaged by a wild ferret which had somehow got into the house, presumably when the cat was let out for the night. It bit her on both cheeks, and was still attached when she ran, screaming and bleed-

ing, into her parents' room. Mr Brian Wright managed to pull the ferret from her face and shot it *dead with an air rifle. Only suggested reason for the attack was that* the ferret was hungry...which is a frightening thought...

High Wycombe, Bucks: In April 77, Darryl Pitchford and Richard Elliff where killed when their car ran into the back of a lorry. A dead ferret was found stuffed between the front seats. It was conjectured that the ferret could have got out of a box (which is not mentioned as being actually present in the car when found) and ran wild, causing the crash. Sun 7 June 77.

SNAKES:

Eating people...

North West Bangladesh: Villagers fought a tug-of-war with a 30-foot python which had half-swallowed a man. Both man and snake died. S. People, 3 July 77.

Central Sulawesi, Celebes, Indonesia: A 20-ft python was killed by villagers, who found the fully-clothed body of a 45-yr old man, with some broken ribs, inside. D. Telegraph, D Mirror 19 Nov 77, Observer 20 Nov 77.

Mount Tinombala, Indonesia: We know not whether this is the same story re-emerged, or a new case, but the Sunday Times, 7 May 78 reports a man attacked by a 6-yd python, which was killed the following day and cut open to reveal the fully-clothed body of the man.

And not eating people...

Nigeria: A bus company, complaining about rumours spread by their competitors, took an advertisement in the Nigerian Daily Times: "We wish to state categorically...that none of our numerous drivers was ever swallowed by a boa constrictor in a bush near Ore Town"! We're glad to hear it... Reveille, 10 Sept 76.

Crushing people...

Naples, Italy: 2 12-ft pythons strangled and crushed snake-charmer Janco Simba, 30, in the midst of his circus act. He was dead before performers could cut and axe the snakes from his body. Evening News, 11 Feb 77, D Mirror, D Telegraph, 12 Feb 77

Biting people...

Drayton Manor Park Zoo, Staffs: Zoo worker John Foden, trying to free another snake behind a rock, was bitten by a diamond-back rattle snake. He was taken to hospital seriously ill, but recovered after *police rushed serum to the hospital.* D Mirror, Sun, 2 Apr 77.

Sandown Zoo, Isle of Wight: Keeper Douglas Corney was bitten while transferring a rattlesnake to a new enclosure. He had to be helicopterec to Southampton for serum. D Express, 19 Aug 77.

Vung Tau, Vietnam: Poisonous sea-snakes, 1-3 ft long, native to the central coast but having moved south in search of food, were blamed for dozens of deaths among swimmers and fishermen in the few weeks preceding our reports: S.F. Chronicle, Houston (Tx) Chronicle, 11 June 74. (Cr: L Coleman, MA Hall)

AMPHIBIANS...

Johannesburg, S Africa: Grandmother Nella Van Niewenhuisen, 60, was weeding the garden when she was savaged by a 2 lb 'shark-toothed' bullfrog, which bit a chunk from her hand. Her son-in-law beat the bullfrog to death when it attacked him too. Evening Standard, 8 Feb 77. D Mirror, 9 Feb 77.

And randy toads were blamed for the death of thousands of goldfish in Britain's ponds in spring, 77. There was, it seems, a shortage of female toads, an imbalance of up to 10 to 1, and the libidinous toads were making love to everything in sight...sticks, water-lilies, goldfish, clutching them in a strong grip for hours...a grip strong enough to crush the fish. D Mirror, 3 Mar 77, S. People, 6 Mar 77.

"SCIENTIST EATEN BY MONSTERS"

So declares the delightful headline in the South China Morning Post, 3 Oct 77. (Cr: C Johnson).

Kamodo, Indonesia: The varans, usually known as Kamodo Dragons, have turned savage due to shortage of food. And the 12-ft long lizards, of which there are only a 1000 pairs left, are blamed for the death of an unnamed scientist who went there to study them. He disappeared, and the only trace found was his camera, near where the varans live.

PRIMATES...

Southsea, Hants: A thief who broke into and set fire to a pet shop, was thought to have been bitten by a poisonous African

monkey, the only survivor of nearly 200 pets. D. Sketch, 29 Dec 65

San Francisco: A monkey, using the Victorian scrollwork on housefronts as a trapeze, held a crowd in the street enthralled...until he descended and attacked a girl, biting her shoes. The monkey was captured and handed over to the SPCA. S.F. Chronicle, 22 Feb 74. (Cr: L Coleman)

Eelberdale, Hargesia, N. Somalia: On the 12th & 13th Dec 74, 25 villagers armed with heavy sticks fought a pitched battle with 5-600 Somali Monkeys (4ft 6ins, weighing 10 stone at maturity). The monkeys threw stones, bit and gashed, and threw people to the ground (one such throw resulting in a dislocated hip). Hunger resulting from drought was believed to be the motive. Casualty figures vary: 254 or 353 monkeys dead, 6 people injured. The remaining monkeys retreated to the hills at 4pm on the second day. S.F.Chronicle, 16 Dec 74, Reveille, 2 May 75. (Cr: L Coleman, N Watson)

Tarzana, California: We chuckle that the area surrounding the home of the late Edgar Rice Burroughs, creator of 'Tarzan', should be ravaged by chimpanzees. Mrs Debra Kessler heard a commotion among the eucalyptus trees at the back of her tennis-court and called the police. A sergeant arrived, stepped into the wood, and was pelted with broken branches. Mrs Kessler's son used the police car's radio: "Please send assistance. Officer surrounded by gorillas." A message that brought 23 armed men to the scene. Bravely stepping into the woods, they were pelted with bark, branches and cabbage stalks (the chimps were obviously waiting for them!), but they caught sight of at least 3 chimpanzees before beating a retreat. We have no further word of the chimps, but the sergeant who had to be rescued went into hiding... D Mail, 20 March 76.

Lamar County, Texas: 2 Orangutans escaped from their cage in a pasture and scratched two boys, 8 & 12 yrs old, as they walked through the field...for which crime they were duly hunted down and shot. Paris (Tx) News, 6 Jan 77 (Cr: TR Adams).

Kuwait: Seven crazed monkeys escaped from their zoo cage and killed two children, by biting and scratching. A zookeeper was seriously bitten too. Police shot one monkey and captured the others. S. Express 18 Sept 77 (Cr: P Roberts)

Bogota, Colombia: Marco Polo, a pigsty keeper and TV star, was reprieved from a death sentence for killing a 70-yr-old woman, on the grounds of provocation. Marco is a 5-yr old performing monkey. D. Express, & Indian Express 12 Oct 1978; & Calcutta Statesman 13 Oct (Cr:Ion Will)

Kenya: A baboon ran off with a 6-yr old child. D Express, 1 Nov 77.

Malaysia: Enraged at his master's insistence that he should take a daily swim, a pet monkey turned on the man and bit him to death. Neighbours killed the monkey with sticks. Evening Standard, 12 Jan 78. (Cr: I Lawes).

FATAL ATTRACTIONS...

What fools we mortals be...sometimes we make it just too easy...

W Germany, place unknown: Berhard Griebner, 20, an animal lover, had to be identified from documents in his wallet. He broke into a zoo cage, and 16 lions promptly ate him, leaving only bones and scraps of clothing. D Express, 19 Jan 78.

Rome, Italy: On 23 Feb 78, Renato Fioreno, deaf and nearly mute, and also an animal lover, climbed into the Rome zoo, tried to open a cage, and was badly mauled by a 330-pound tiger. Herald Tribune, 25 Feb 78. (Cr: I Will).

Indonesia: According to the South China Morning Post, 20(?) Jan 78 (Cr: C Johnson) the bodies of two men, Sunarmin, 62, and Amarlack, 58 were found by a companion in the north Sumatran jungle. Both were experts in Silat, the local variety of martial arts, and both were badly clawed. Nearby lay a dead tiger, 'but there were no indications how it had died'. There's got to be a story behind that one..!

SM

Late News

As we assembled this issue two attacks appeared in the papers --North of Toronto, three youths were mauled to death by a 300lb black bear, which was found shot dead near them. Daily Telegraph 17 April 1978. -- At Heathrow airport, a small private passenger plane taxiing for takeoff was halted when a passenger's dog went berserk and bit him. Sunday Express 14 May 1978.

The Great Fortean Computer Project

Stay still long enough and you fossilise - that applies equally to physical remains as it does to thought. Change is forced upon us, and we adapt or go under. FT, Fortean thought and Forteans themselves are no exceptions. A small but growing number of Forteans are beginning to appreciate that our thought, our organisational structures and the relationships between the various Fortean bodies, our data handling methods and our resources are all reaching their limits. Indeed some of these factors have already broken down or are simply proving cumbersome or faulty in their application or administration.

Perhaps the biggest and certainly most pressing problem is the accumulation of Fortean data. Fort estimated he had between 40-60,000 notes - not all were included in The Books; and Carl Pabst, of SITU, has patiently deciphered and restored most, if not all, of CF's unpublished notes (Carl's project however is too vast to include in a journal like FT & needs a special publication, which must come in due time.) And Fort only creamed off the top of all the material he refers us to in the Books - a fact that has prompted X to begin a periodical archive of Fort's source material (see note in our 'News' section this issue.) Now Fort only covered the period 1800 - 1931 (with brief excursions), and the rich veins of Fortean data outside, before and after that time, have yet to be systematically plundered - although some stalwarts have gone through, say, the whole backfile of a local paper, this hardly scratches the surface of available records worldwide of historical material, periodical backfiles, personal research and anecdote collection etc etc. Add to that the daily accumulation of notes from today's papers, and I estimate we are talking about data in the thousands of millions.

Already, on the small scale your editor has to operate, the limit has been reached. Files take up space; accessing and coding takes time; both take a certain amount of financing - and there is not enough of any of these things. And out there, in the world, there are many other Fortean researchers with their own files, angles, problems and potentials. Forteans are a strange breed. The nature of our material makes the quest quite often a lonely pursuit, and most Forteans of character or experience seem to be fiercely individualistic, rogue elephants and lone wolves suspicious of the regimentation of thought in the pack and the tendancy to institutionalise knowledge and bureaucracy in the herd. Consequently many Fortean researchers tend to value communication with another Fortean of similar calibre above much else. FT was founded to serve this kind of need, and so I feel it is a good place to start the impetus for better thought, tools and methods.

Basically the sort of problems generated by dealing with such huge volumes of data are not unique to ourselves, and there has evolved a large body of experience in the computer world, but mainly applied to the academic, commercial and scientific problems of this nature. Our data, and the sorts of things we wish to do with it are ideal for contemporary computer applications. There were two main obstacles for a tiny operation like ours: cost and knowledge. Because of recent rapid and truly amazing developments in microprocessing components, the first, and originally greatest, obstacle has now been completely removed. Fully functional desk-top computers, with enough memory and muscle, are now available for well under £1000 - and prices will inevitably tumble lower because of the explosion of interest in the use of

cont on p36/

Aert de Gelder's 'UFO' Painting

Copyright: Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

by PAUL SCREETON with CHRIS CASTLE

One of our regular clipsters, Valerie Martin, recently asked if we'd noticed the preponderence of some very Fortean looking artwork around these days on the covers of books and records etc. Indeed we had wondered about having some informed comment on Fortean themes in modern graphics and invite someone to offer us an illustrated article. Meanwhile we noticed this piece in a recent issue of the *Journal of Geomancy* (2.2.1978) the organ of the very active Cambridge based Institute of Geomantic Research (see our journal review section for details), and which we reproduce in an edited form, by kind permission of the parties involved.

A whispered 'Paul must see the flying saucer picture' whilst staying in Cambridge alerted me to the contents of the most extraordinary painting that I have ever seen. A hurried viewing of *The Baptism of Christ* at the Fitzwilliam Museum persuaded me that here was a picture of mystical content and that the strange object casting light upon a memorable religious occasion could well be placed in the UFO phenomenon context. It did not have to be an exact replica of the archetypal, supposedly extra-terrestrial,vehicle photographed in dramatic circumstances by the late George Adamski; the similarity to countless reports of alleged interplanetary craft and the curious juxtaposition with a highlight of the Christian tale was sufficient.

But this was no psychedelic portrayal from the palette of the hip awareness of turned-on, tuned-in, dropped-out consciousness of the late 20th century visionary art. The brushes here were in the hands of Aert de Gelder who died in 1727!

Aert (or Aernt) de Gelder is hardly held in high esteem by the art world. His work, however, is widely dispersed and seemingly ignored as far as published studies are concerned (1). But what of the man? He cannot be discussed in isolation,for his art is welded into the flow of the Dutch School, and the mystical nature of the picture may have been inspired by a special religious outlook.

De Gelder was born on 26 October 1645, becoming a portrait painter who also depicted religious scenes and tableaux showing oriental influence. He was a pupil of Samuel van Hoogstraten, and between 1665 and 1667 studied under Rembrandt van Rijn, whose manner he followed closely. In Rembrandt's own later work his technique is free and bold, and suggests an obsession to express a vision. He had lost his former rapport with the public, who found themselves unable to follow him in his 'profound search for the spiritual essences of the biblical subjects which increasingly occupied him'. (2)

It is speculative link of religious brotherhood between Rembrandt, van Hoogstraten and de Gelder which concerns us primarily, hence it is reasonable to sketch a few details of the prevailing religious climate within which their work was produced. On breaking bonds early in the 17th century with Spain, Holland became a Calvinist nation, set apart from the Roman Catholic world. Consequently this rupture was decisive for artists. Previously the Church commissioned great numbers of new works covering large-scale treatments of religious motifs. Calvinism, however, deplored the Roman Catholic display of religious paintings in churches, hence such subjects were only commissioned by private individuals for their own homes. Religious art waned.

But for Rembrandt the Bible continued to be the main source of material for his compositions. And as for Calvinism, following his wife Saskia's death and the entry into an asylum of a woman he took into his service named Geertyhe Dirox, he fell foul of the Calvinist church of Amsterdam regarding his relationship with Hendrisje Stoffels. Their neighbours were upset by his liaison, but the couple failed to answer the summons. The charge was repeated in July 1654, citing only the woman and on a third summons she was admonished. Biographers deduced Rembrandt was not a member of the national church. Furthermore, Filippo Baldinucci related that the artist had joined the Mennonite sect, 'which is possible but not proven'. (3)

One of his pupils was Samuel van Hoogstraten (1627-1678), who had previously studied under his own father. The Rembrandt influence in his drawings and some of his paintings is obvious, but his lively mind stopped his being a copyist. A man who travelled widely, his art also covered several territories, such as landscapes, marines, animals and still-lifes. He caused a scandal in his native Dordrecht, when he was expelled in 1956 from the Mennonite community to which he belonged, for marrying without the community's approval and for wearing a sword.

A scientific theoretician, Hoogstraten had pupils at various periods, including Aert de Gelder, and in his old age composed for their benefit an elaborate treatise on painting, *Introduction to the High Art School,* illustrated with his own engravings. At one stage his study of optics led to his painting pictures producing uncanny visual effects. (4) Contemporary judgement places Rembrandt on a pinnacle, Hoogstraten as interesting only for his optical effects work and de Gelder as a minor painter. Indeed, market prices of de Gelder's work reflect this conspicuously.

A characteristic of at least two of Rembrandt's Biblical scenes is that 'aerial' personages occur in the top left hand corner: a winged angel in *The Sacrifice of Abraham* and a floating figure in the *Sacrifice of Manoah.* It may, of course, be pure coincidence that Aert de Gelder placed his aerial object left of centre at the top of his picture (5).

There would not seem likely to be a metaphysical link between Rembrandt and his pupil, de Gelder. In his major study of Rembrandt, Muller mentions several pupils of Rembrandt, but not de Gelder. There, however, is a postulated religious link between Rembrandt and van Hoogstraten through the Mennonites, but this Quaker-type sect seems unlikely to have induced a mystical-style view of religion. Consequently, we are left to examine the painting on its own merits. Physically the canvas is 19" x 14-5/8" and the Fitzwilliam Museum catalogue suggests its date as c1710. I asked a Cambridge artist, Chris Castle, for his opinion of the work, and this is his critical commentary:

> 'It is twilight, a hilltop, a landscape stretches away, the slightly glowing outlines of two towns, then mountains beyond.
>
> 'But on *this* hill top, a gathering of people in ancient dress gaze,motionless, entranced at the scene taking place before them. Two figures, the one kneedeep in water, head bowed, hands in attitude of prayer, stoops slightly toward the other who with outstretched arms sprinkles him with water.
>
> 'Something momentous indeed has caught the attention of the surrounding onlookers. The water and the two figures are bathed in a special kind of light, softly glowing. High in the sky above hovers a greenish disk at the centre of which is a tiny dove with outstretched wings. From that disk emanate four narrow rays which seem to travel down to earth penetrating the centre of the place/event below. The rays seem both to support the disk above and to come down as a blessing and completion of the baptism. But the rays themselves are painted in such a way as not to appear as light beams. Perhaps some other kind of 'light' is intended. The

peculiar light quality of the scene is enhanced by the glow of the central event; indeed one feels the water to be charged with some spiritual energy.

'The overall harmony of the painting is maintained throughout by de Gelder's strict control of his palette. The rulebook of his master Rembrandt is in strong evidence in his coloration and his handling of the paint. The painting doesn't break through any revolutionary ground on the technical level. It is basically quite safely in the Rembrandt tradition. But the subject matter and overall atmosphere created is so unusual an interpretation of the Baptism of Christ that the shortcomings of the painting technique are overshadowed and soon forgotten. As Rembrandt's later works were those which influenced de Gelder, the surface of the painting is loose and almost impressionistic in soft smudgy brushmarks. No detail of importance emerges from either the figures looking on or the landscape beyond. Both landscape and people function only as setting for the cosmic fusion of sky and earth spirits.

'There is some doubt about the artist's intentions regarding the distribution of land masses in the painting. The Baptism seems to be taking place in water (the Jordan?) on a hilltop (a river on a hilltop?). Maybe a dewpond is intended or maybe this is not the Baptism of Christ at all.'

Assuming that there is a revelatory message in the scene as depicted by de Gelder we might consider a few aspects which appear to be relevant. Firstly the disk in the sky is so tantalizingly akin to reported UFOs that it could easily be utilized to substantiate the tiresomely tedious welter of paperbacks in the 'Was-God-an-Astronaut?' genre. Uncle Erich von Daniken and a horrendous host of bandwagoners have quarried this strata and their banalities have devalued the mercurial link between the UFO syndrome and mysticism. Central beneath the disc is a dove, and the Gnostics (regarded by Christian orthodoxy as heretics for their numerical interpretations) believed that 'the divine spirit, represented by the dove,entered into Jesus, the man, at his baptism, while the Church held that the spirit and the body of Jesus Christ were indivisible, and looked forward to bodily resurrection'. (6) This prophetic, rather than priestly, notion seems to be specifically pointed at in this painting. It can be added that another dis object, the Holy Grail, is accompanied – as here – with beams of light and sometimes preceded by the flying in of a dove (7). Altogether hardly a Mennonite Brethren dogma.

In *UFOs from Behind the Iron Curtain* pictures are reproduced of 'astronauts' on the walls of mediaeval Jugoslavian monasteries, particularly in association with Christ's crucifixion. Also similar pictures have been identified in Russia and Rumania (8).

But our quest has been to delve into the inspiration of a Dutchman; the subject of the piece hanging in a corner of a sedate university city museum. This has been necessarily only a speculative account of one man and an isolated creation of his, but I regard the painting as being an astonishing depiction of the inexplicable.

Paul Screeton/Chris Castle – 1978.

Notes and References:

1) The only book devoted to him – *Arent de Gelder: Sein Leben und Sein Kunst* (published in Holland in 1914) by Karl Lilienfeld – does not appear to have been translated into English.
2) Sewter, AC., *Baroque and Rococo Art,* (Thames and Hudson, London-1972).
3) Muller, Joseph-Emile; *Rembrandt* (Thames & Hudson, London, 1968).
4) Wilenski, RH.; *An Introduction to Dutch Art* (Faber & Gwyer, 1924).
5) (A note by *J. Geomancy* editor, Nigel Pennick): In Hieronymus Bosch's painting *The Ascent into the Empyrean,* souls are seen being escorted by angels into a tube of light in the sky. The focus of this tube is on the top left of the panel. For further details see *The Complete Paintings of Bosch* by Gregory Martin and Mia Cinotti (Wiedenfeld & Nicolson, 1969).
6) Michell, John; *City of Revelation* (Garnstone, 1972/ Abacus 1973).
7) Crow, Dr. WB; *A History of Magic, Witchcraft and Occultism* (Aquarian, 1968).
8) Hobana, Ion, and Weverbergh, Julien; *UFOs from behind the Iron Curtain* (Souvenir, 1974).

(Postscript: Readers interested in pursuing the psychological interpretations of the UFO, or glowing aerial disc, or numinous hole in the cosmic fabric, are referred to Dr CG Jung's *Flying Saucers* (recently reprinted by Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1977) which discusses generally the UFO as a symbol of psychic unity, and which has a chapter on the UFO-symbol in art – Ed.)

THE OBLIGATORY TOUT...

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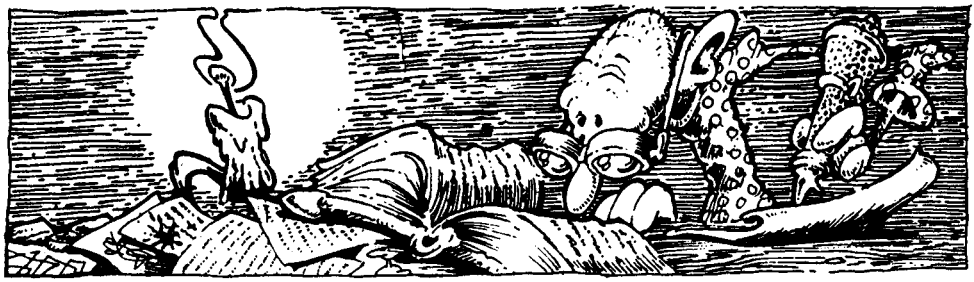
ERRATA

Flu - the citations given at the foot of column 1, p33 last issue, credited to Ion Will, were wrongly dated by your editor as 1977 - they are all 1978.

NEWS CLIPPINGS

If you see anything of interest to FT readers in your reading, professional or scientific journals, or local newspapers, please clip it out, or make a note of it, add a note of the source, date, and your name . . . then send it to us. It all helps and there are surprisingly few duplications. Some readers have offered to scan their regular reading matter, and if you would like to do the same, please contact us for suggested periodicals not being covered by others.



REVIEW SUPPLEMENT

We welcome books and journals for review or exchange on all topics of related interest. The details and contents of journals are given in the next issue after receipt, and the return favour in their pages would be appreciated.

Natural and Supernatural: A History of the Paranormal from Earliest Times to 1914 by Brian Inglis (Hodder and Stoughton, 1978; £9.95; pp ; bib, index) -- Brian Inglis's book is a sad history of human credulity. It shows how a religious belief or scientific theory can utterly blind even (or particularly) educated people to all the evidence of history, experimentation and their own senses. By the second half of the nineteenth century, both science and religion had become dominated by the doctrine of materialism, "one of the most powerful faiths ever to acquire a hold over man's mind". Yet the same materialism-defying phenomena - poltergeist outbreaks, shamanistic powers and the like - which have always and everywhere been inseperable from human nature and history, continued as actively as ever. Indeed, the more fervently materialism was embraced, the more extreme and insistent became its reaction. The greatest of the 'spirit mediums', DD Home, recreated the traditional feats of shamanism (necromancy, apports, levitation etc) at the very time when scepticism about such things was at its height; and his integrity survived every scientific test and underhand trick that his opponents could devise. But since the powers he exercised were those among whose existence the religion of materialism denied, he was loudly decried as a self-evident charlatan. Respectable professors descended to publishing lies against his reputation, and the few brave scientists, like Sir William Crookes, who dared to subject him to honest inquiry, were professionally victimised. Whether they are persecuting witches in defence of moral faith or mediums for the upholding of materialism, the inquisitors of every generation are similarly motivated. Belief is more important than evidence.

This is a big book - some 200,000 words - very informative and with a good bibliography. The extent to which the 'paranormal' has always pervaded human existence is demonstrated with examples from all ages, and for every example, says Inglis, he could find dozens of others. His purpose is to show that the materialist paradigm of science does not, and never did, adequately represent the full range of effects that make up our experience of the world. Physics has long abandoned it, but it continues to inhibit the development of other sciences, like anthropology, whose professors have consistently refused to investigate the methods and achievements of tribal magic on the grounds, first that it involved traffic with the devil, and secondly that it was an ineffectual superstition. Andrew Lang, who suggested that the phenomena of modern spiritualism might help to explain the origin of miracles and wonders in religious history and folklore, was violently attacked by other anthropologists for allowing that such things could be anything else but conjuring tricks or morbid delusions. Thus, as Inglis points out, anthropologists over the last 200 years have thrown away the chance of investigating entire codes of traditional magic in societies which no longer exist.

Inglis's book, like so many others on the 'paranormal', is directed, somewhat defensively, at a liberal-academic readership, and he limits his sources to those which seem most reputable and well documented. We miss therefore the type of material that Fort delighted in, the

spontaneous oddities which occur to unremarkable people outside any magical, religious or spiritualistic context, and which hint, through such trivialities as falls of little fishes, at the operations of cosmic forces never fully comprehended by any magician.

Inglis believes that a revolution is taking place in our way of thinking which will require the re-writing of science textbooks and history. His book certainly shows that such a revolution is overdue. Yet he must admit that the spirit-rappers, card-guessers and spoon-benders, their devoted investigators and all their quasi-scientific talk of magnetic fluids and universal plastic media have actually achieved or proved very little. There is a disembodied sense of humour abroad in the world which seems to delight in mocking the efforts of earnest people to provide definitive explanations for any of life's recurrent mysteries. If the revolution in thought predicted by Brian Inglis is to have any real value, it will mean not just the replacing of one belief-system by another, but the development of an 'inclusionist' science on the Fortean model, based pragmatically on effects as repeatedly observed rather than on whatever set of prejudices happen to be dominant.

John Michell.

The Secret Discovery of Australia by Kenneth G McIntyre(Souvenir Press 1977; £6.50; pp427; indexes, bib, notes, maps & photos) -- Australia was discovered by Captain Cook in 1770, as every schoolboy is taught - but as McIntyre shows in a monumental piece of historical detective work, this 'fact' is a lie and skilful propaganda; before Cook were the Dutch in 1606, and before them were the Portuguese in about 1516. One of the great enigmas of marine history is why the Portuguese, possibly the most accomplished sailors of their day, should have stopped their explorations at the island of Timor, and not gone on to colonize Australia a mere 295 miles further on. By a painstaking analysis of ancient and forgotten Portuguese maps, and the clarification of some obscure details in the history and accounts of the early navigational explorations of the East Indies, McIntyre has assembled an impressive (in quality and quantity) body of proof that the Portuguese discovery of Australia was deliberately suppressed by the Portuguese themselves.

The main reason derives from the staggering arbitrary action of Pope Alexander VI in dividing the then unexplored parts of the world between the Spanish and the Portuguese - the new continent was substantially on Spain's side of the Pacific 'demarcation line' (long 129°E, which today forms the boundary of Western Australia.) Spain disputed the Pacific demarcation line anyway and the militarily less-powerful Portugal wished to avoid any confrontation, such as would inevitably proceed from the announcement of the finding of a new continent that straddled the disputed area. Besides, Portugal was damned if she was going to hand Spain a free new continent to plunder. The secret was so well kept that McIntyre's discovery of it is a brilliant feat of patient scholarship, all the more so when we learn that he is a retired lawer and ex-mayor, and Australian-Portuguese history was only a hobby, albeit a passionate one.

The burden of proof in a revision of this kind necessarily lies in its chapters on the minutiae of cartography and navigation. Personally I found the supplementary evidence of more immediate interest: the Portuguese cannon found at Carronade Island; the ruined fort at Bittangabee, NSW, that McIntyre argues was a Portuguese base in 1524; the mysterious wreck of 'The Mahogony Ship' mentioned by early English sailors on the Western Australia coast; the mystery of the distinctly 'European head' carved in profile on a sandstone rock among Aborigine 'wandjina' paintings in the Collier's Bay area, WA; the identity of the curious kangaroo-like animals decorating De Jode's map of 1593; and the implications of Cook's apparant "prior knowledge" of Australia's coasts in making straight for the "best port".

The blurb accompanying my copy claimed this book "will cause the history books to be rewritten". That may be inevitable, but if the orthodox inertia over Columbus's precursers is anything to go by, it will be a drawn-out and shameful process.

RJMR.

A Guide to Ancient Sites in Britain by Janet & Colin Bord (Latimer, 1978; £5.95; pp183; indexes, bib, photos) -- Perhaps, like me, you don't have much opportunity to travel around and spend some time appreciating the ancient sites that dot our land, and whose names I know from daily reading (almost). If you are interested in the questions of prehistory, archæology and folklore you have often wondered what these lore-laden places looked like, if not act-

ually wanted to see them. Well this calm and collected guide was made for you and me. In their brief introduction the Bords make no pretence about their necessarily limited approach. They say that there exist something like "1000 megalithic tombs, 30,000-40,000 round barrows (in England alone), over 900 stone circles, around 3000 hillforts and countless thousands of standing stones...in various states of decay or preservation." To whittle this down to a description of 126 sites must have been a difficult and unenviable task, and inevitably purists will have their own ideas on what should have been included. But this guide is aimed at the armchair- and desk-bound as well as for the general reader and traveller who may not be aware of the current interest and controversies over the megalith builders, their methods and their artifacts. The Bords' criteria for selection are those which strike the ordinary man; the impressive visual qualities of the site, and certain details of historical and legendary merit. The entries are presented in the form of photos and maps with a brief text giving essential details, map references and access information, and a few hints on further reading. The austerity contrasts sharply with their previous book, The Secret Country (reviewed in FT18, and recently issued in paperback - see pb reviews) which dealt with the fabric of folklore woven around ancient site, and to which this book must be seen as a complement. Most of the photos in this splendidly illustrated book are from the Bords own collection, the result of many photographic tours...and a word of praise for Colin's photography will not be amiss here. His skilful and appreciative eye elevates many of the pictures from being merely technically good to superb evocations of the atmosphere of remote and timeless mystery surrounding these magical places. Aficionados can undoubtedly point to wider-ranging and more detailed surveys, but for the non-specialist here is a useful and visually stimulating begining. Archæological terms are explained, and a timechart gives an idea of temporal perspective - and for those interested in learning more there is a comprehensive reading list.

RJMR.

The False Messiahs by Jack Grattus (Gollancz 1975; £6.00; pp285; index, notes, bib) -- I know we're a bit late with this review but the subject matter is well worth mentioning. In recent years some of the UFO scholars (particularly the MUFOB group) have drawn our attention to the parallels between messianic cults and the belief in UFOs as physical vehicles of the Space Brothers who have come to rescue mankind from nuclear extinction. This 'deus ex machina' complex can be most dramatically seen in the various 'cargo' cults around the world, where modern technological man has overwhelmed a remote archaic society and shattered their way of life. Such a one in New Guinea makes its own crude runways in the jungle and waits for the great flying machines who will bestow wonderful cargo upon them made in distant magical factories. It never comes, of course - because they are too sinful, of course. But in every European society there have been great changes which isolate some group or another; a group that usually prefers a more ideal, if dogmatic, spiritual way of life. When events degrade their beliefs, when the messiah fails to turn up on time, and it's two minutes past the Millenium, then the ground is ready for a whole crop of 'false messiahs'. Grattus here presents an outline history of messianity (if I may call it that) concentrating on some of the more bizarre characters that left a mark on the history of Western Europe, including those of the various dissenting groups like Shakers, Ranters and Quakers. Gratus seems to have confined himself to Jewish and Christian religious history with only the briefest of illustrative skirmishes into the realms of other exotic beliefs. However, I venture that those of you interested in the sociology of UFO cults will find many parallels herein to the weirdness of today.

RJMR

Perpetual Motion by Arthur WJG Ord-Hume (G Allen & Unwin, 1977; £5.50; pp235; index, bib, illos) -- a wise and witty book on the epitome of cranks ...and levers and weights and springs... This is the extremely well-told and well-illustrated story of man's obsession with finding the perfect motor, which like its relatives, anti-gravity, the elixir of life, squaring the circle, and the Philosopher's Stone, has motivated the famous, the rich and powerful, speculators and investors, crooks and believers, as well as the inventor - all get caught up in the pursuit and eventually caught out (many tragi-comic episodes are related). Mr Ord-Hume, an authority on early musical mechanisms, proves a knowlegeable guide taking us through all manner of odd ideas about

how the universe operates mechanically, chemically, electrically, using weights, capillary action, evaporation/condensation action, expansion/contraction, rising/falling and so on. Forteans will relish the chapter on the Keely Motor Company, which was one of the last things Fort ever wrote about - and on why PM inventors are barred from the US patent office.

Useful as the book is as a reference, it is the sad story of failure even with human ingenuity stretched to incredible and credulous limits, for despite the many thousands (possibly more) of man-hours spent on the problem of perpetual motion over many centuries, it remains a dream, tantalisingly out of reach. However, Mr Ord-Hume becomes more equivocal about the paradoxical states of matter and energy discovered by modern physics. Curiously he acknowledges that the phenomenon known as 'Superconductivity' (in which the electrical resistance in say a coil can be reduced practically to zero, so that a current placed in the coil will continue undiminished for astonishing lengths of time), discovered in 1930s, seems to provide the electrical equivalent of a "perfect flywheel", but adds that "it is impossible to see any practical use"! Like the laser, the superconductor is being applied in research, today, to generate novel devices and processes, which previously were only, SF. Interestingly, despite the books emphasis on mechanical, chemical and electrical devices, the author does not conclude that science's 'laws' are immutable; only that, so far, all attempts to contravene them in practice have failed. The only perpetual thing Ord-Hume tips his hat to is that people keep on trying - and the subject has lost none of its fascination today.

RJMR.

Ghosts over Britain by Peter Moss (Elm Tree Books 1977; £3.95; pp173, photos, drawings) - The accounts in this book (60 in all) are told simply, so that the reality of the experience shines through. The author began his research by advertising in local newspapers and following up the most interesting letters - the result is a book of value both to the reader who just wants to be entertained, and to the researcher seeking hard facts. These are here aplenty, the cases covering a wide field: crisis apparitions, 'memory' ghosts, malevolent ghosts, poltergeists, talking ghosts etc., even a case of water issuing from walls, ceiling and floor. There are many illustrations, with some photos of witnesses and haunted locations, and a large number of full-page drawings, some of which are effective but rather wasteful of space. Altogether an entertaining and useful book, which helps to show that ghosts are very much an ever-present phenomenon.

Janet Bord.

Lost Gods by John Allegro (Michael Joseph, 1977; £4.95; pp191; index) -- Allegro, who outraged many with the thesis of his Sacred Mushroom & The Cross that Christianity originated in an Eastern Mediterranean cult of mushroom-eaters similar to the peyote-mystics of Mexico, must have appeared to have finally gone round the bend with this book. However there is little that is strictly original here, except that by assembling a few unorthodox approaches (sexuality, shamanism, witchcraft, psychology, evolution & anthropology, etc) to orthodox religion and rites he gives us the benefit of his own undoubted fresh originality. His enemies will not be disappointed; here he follows the powerful archaic forces of sexuality, the ritual control/appeasment of nature, and the quest for visionary experience in their transition from early religious movements into Christianity - a sort of sacred 'Roots'!

RJMR

*** Among the many books received for review, and which, in order to give them the space they deserve, will be kept for next issue, are: the giant 2 volume Encyclopedia of Occultism & Parapsychology (Gale; edited by Leslie Shepard); Hallucinations (Wiley; edited by Siegel & West); and In Search of Ancient Astronomies (Doubleday; edited by Dr EC Krupp).

paperbacks

Cosmic Trigger - Final Secret of the Illuminati by Robert Anton Wilson (And/Or Press 1977; $4.95c; pp269; refs, ind) Like 'Illuminatus!', the sheer range of this book makes it something of a reviewer's nightmare. On one hand, it is largely autobiographical; a record of Wilson's personal evolution, shaped by conspiracy theories, Forteana, drugs, magic, his friendship with Dr Timothy Leary, and an awful lot of weirdness. On the other hand, it is also an examination of several topics of interest to Forteans: the 23 phenomenon; telepathic communication from alleg-

edly extra-terrestrial sources, specifically Sirius, and Wilson contributes more evidence from occult history to the work done by Temple in 'The Sirius Mystery'; the nature of physical reality; Immortalism; Leary's theory of the evolution of higher consciousness (which Wilson explains quite lucidly, in contrast to Leary's own bafflingly peculiar and inaccurate foreword to the book) and much more. Some of the flavour of the book may be gained from Wilson's article in FT23.

Wilson also discusses several theories to explain all this weirdness, and presents a triple-barrelled, Leary-ist view of the future: Space Migration + Increased Intelligence + Life Extension (SMI²LE). Peculiarly, though, in a book that constantly appeals for the consideration of alternatives, Wilson sticks rigidly to a linear progressive view of evolution: that all physical and mental change must point continually upwards, and occur at a progressively accelerating rate... to the 'Omega Point' (apparently 2012AD) where changes are occurring at such progressively shorter intervals that the whole thing goes pop, and mankind evolves into an entirely new species.

Frankly, although the idea is extremely appealing, I just can't see the world in such optimistic fashion (us cynics'll probably be left behind when the galaxy goes pop). But Wilson obviously writes with a great deal of conviction, honesty, style and humour...and it is a damn good, thought-provoking read, well-referenced and with much interesting material, as well as some intriguing illustrations by John Thompson. Recommended. SM

Abducted: Confrontations with Beings from Outer Space, by Coral and Jim Lorenzen (Berkeley Medallion, 1977; $1.75; pp230) -- The Lorenzen's latest compilation of material from the files of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) is obviously intended to catch the eye of those who have seen the film 'Close Encounters' and are eager to learn more. And it is a good book for them to turn to, as it will go some way to correcting the misleading impression conveyed by the film. They will soon discover that UFO occupants are not friendly, timid creatures but rather menacing, unemotional. Seven major US abduction cases from 1973-76 are described in detail: Patty 'Price', taken from her house with 3 of her children, who later said 'They treated me like a guinea-pig. They didn't care about people as people"; Carl Higdon, taken while elk-hunting in Wyoming; Sergeant Charles L Moody, abducted while watching for meteorites in the New Mexico desert; Sandra Lawson,taken from her car along with a friend in North Dakota; David Stephens and another young man, taken from their car in Maine; Travis Walton, zapped by a beam of light from a UFO in an Arizona pine forest went missing for 5 days; 3 Kentucky ladies taken from their car while returning home late one night. The chapter on Travis Walton is especially long because his case aroused controversy and acrimony in which APRO were much involved. The case is continued in Appendix 1, which gives in full the disputed Walton polygraph test and accompanying interview. The two other appendices are a paper on 'Hypnotic Time Regression Procedures in the Investigation of UFO Experiences' by Dr R Leo Sprinkle, and the text of Philip J Klass's '$10,000 UFO Agreement'.

All the material mentioned so far is first-rate valuable data, but when we read the Lorenzens' interpretation, as given in chapter 11, it becomes clear that the authors are living in the past, in those heady days when flying saucers equalled extraterrestrial visitors, no more no less. Talking about the aliens' interest in our minds, they state quite seriously that the aliens who abducted Betty and Barney Hill would have found out about the US postal system from Mr Hill, a postal worker. Eg: "...there would be considerable insight into some very human phenomena: the deluge of Christmas cards in December, the first-of-the-month bills, heavy mail promotions...direct-mail advertising as well as the mail-order business."(p153) And they analyse all the abductees in the same way, assessing what information on the US way of life could be obtained from each. It is as if they've never heard of, let alone read about, the other theories that have been put forward to explain the existence of UFOs. This parochial attitude to their data stresses the need for all UFO investigators to cast aside their natural preoccupations with 20th-century life and to realise that the UFO occupants see us in an entirely different way. Our inability

to examine the problem without any preconceptions whatever is a major reason why we still do not know where UFOs come from or why.

Omitting their ETH hangups, the Lorenzens have produced another excellent book which all researchers should read. At the time of writing we have not heard if there is to be a UK edition, but I hope there will be, to help counteract some of the trash reprinted lately.

JB.

Life after Life (Corgi, 1976; 65p; pp187; bib.); Reflections on Life after Life (Corgi, 1978; 85p; pp149; bib.) both by Raymond A Moody -- One of the subjects hotly debated in the US currently is the notion that there is indeed a life after death, the revival of this ancient controversy centering on the claims made by people who despite being pronounced "clinically dead" spontaneously revived. According to the accounts collected by Dr Moody over five plus years, no two experiences are the same, but seem to have the same structure: patients hear themselves pronounced dead, then comes a floating sensation often accompanied by ringing or buzzing sounds, then moving fast down a dark tunnel, then looking down at his own body from a point in space - soon he sees figures, some he knows are people who have already died; a "being of light" appears; the patient flashes through a review of his whole life, and then experiences some kind of encouraging pastoral scene from which he strangely and inexorably pulls back to consciousness in his body. These kinds of 'post-mortem' experiences have since been noted by other doctors and researchers (eg Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, whose own book is a best-seller and who contributes a foreword here; Karlis Osis, etc) and recently we heard of a new book that also gives as many experiences of a "Hell" as of "Heaven". Emotive stuff; not only taken by the religious as proof of sorts, but taken by the equally religious of the opposing view that it is all the work of'demons'! The doctors however are wisely cagey about drawing conclusions - briefly, there is not doubt about the body of experiential anecdote, only what it means, and how it happened. In the first book Dr Moody acknowledges that the book cannot be called a scientific study, and that he was not "broadly familiar with the vast literature on paranormal and occult phenomena." The statement has attracted some criticism, especially on the fact that Dr Moody thereby could not benefit from the rich comparisons with Astral Projection, where eg the prolific work of Dr Robert Crookall shows the AP or out-of-the-body experience to have a similar series of stages. The second book is more a collection of responses to the first, especially religious response, with new material on 'Cities of Light', a 'Realm of Bewildered Spirits' and the mystical feeling of universal knowledge. Dr Moody also adds a chapter on historical examples of the 'life after death' experience. The key questions are far from being resolved - are these experiences the results of delusions, or hallucinations, or supernatural intervention, or processes we have not yet accounted for in our material interpretation of the universe? - and Dr Moody can only give his own opinion. He, and other researchers in this field, are sure of one thing however, that man does have a life that extends beyond mere physical appearances. Recommended introductory reading on a difficult and emotive subject.

RJMR

Castaneda's Journey by Richard de Mille (Abacus 1978; £1.50; pp249; index, notes, bib); Don Juan, Mescalito and Modern Magic by Nevill Drury (Routledge & Kegan Paul 1978; £2.95; pp229; index, bib,notes) -- De Mille's masterful analysis of the works of Carlos Casteneda (reviewed in FT21) now in print in the UK in a popular edition, will make many readers aware of Castaneda's skill in adapting the latest theories and research of anthropologists and psychologists, dressing them up as the lectures of his fictional Yaqui Indian sorcerer, Don Juan. De Mille's own wit and wisdom ensures that this is not a 'sour grapes' expose of a literary fraud, but on the contrary turns into a celebration of Castaneda's special genius. After all, doubts about the authenticity of many books (including the Bible) have not dulled their spiritual and mystical messages. Essential reading. Drury's book was written before deMille went iconoclasting - but in a way that doesn't matter too much because his is a personal subjective interpretation of the teachings of Castaneda's Don Juan in the light of modern ritual-magical theory, and the whole tradition of visionary wisdom from the use of hallucinogens and other drugs. He reviews these three approaches to the problem of the magical reality very competently, and with many illustrations from personal experiences and those of friends. The latter part of the book, meditations on the major arcana of the Tarot, is wholly

subjective - I much preferred the earlier discussions of shamanism - but as Drury is after a unification between theory and practice, preferences are meaningless, and the Work must be toward the whole man. All interested in Magick will find this modern defining of the magician's role of interest, but there is little here that will help those less convinced that the use of drug and Magick jargon holds any answer to the central problem of what reality means to each one of us. This is one man's view, well expressed but difficult to relate to. RJMR

Close Encounters: The Strange Truth about UFOs, by Alan West & David Jefferis (Arrow, 1978; £1.75; pp96; illos, bib) -- a large format superficial review of UFO phenomena to catch the eye of the post- Star Wars & Close Encounters of the Third Kind (CE3K) film audiences. There is a competant journalistic review of types of UFO cases, and a perfunctory description of the major alternatives to "nuts and bolts" ufology. The whole project adds little new, except perhaps the first public airing of recent UK and USA cases by now well-known to the people who are really interested. It may channel a few young minds into the subject, which mollifies the fact of its blatant commerciality. Still - there were far worse books for an interested youngster in my young day, and this at least gives them a good read. RJMR

The Lost Tribes From Space by Marc Dem (Corgi 1977; 75p; pp212; index); Our Mysterious Spaceship Moon by Don Wilson (Sphere 1976; 60p; pp172; notes, bib) -- two singular viewpoints on ancient-astronaut-type material. Wilson confines his argument to our Moon effectively, and establishes a case for lunar mysteries better than I had expected - includes the 'Blair Cuspids', lunar lights, alleged footprints, magnetic & gravitic anomalies, enigmatic landscape features, and the hollow-moon 'spaceship' theory (first applied to the moons of Mars and rather unsuccessfully in my view transplanted here to Luna). Dem's book is, by comparison with Wilson's, more hysterical. Briefly it mixes the 'Lost Tribes of Israel' with the 'God was a spaceman' brand of inspired raving. Worth reading for its high baroque revision of the Old Testament, which starts to develop fatal flaws when it spills over into more modern and better documented history. RJMR

The Book of the Strange by editors of The World Almanac (Signet, NY, 1977; $2.50; pp482) -- an encyclopedic listing and summary of contemporary mysteries under the major headings: Human Being, Animals & Plants, Astronomy, Strange Peoples, S.Groups, S.Places, S.Customs, S.Activities, Possession, S.Persons, S.Objects, S.Creatures, Psychics, Psychic Phenomena, Divination, UFOs, Legends & Myths, Hoaxes & Forgeries. The idea is to provide the reader with a reasonably unbiased assessment of several hundred topics of interest. Against the odds the editors have managed to produce a thoroughly sane stroll through the modern menagerie of mysteries and madness - a good sign is that their list of credits acknowledge the advice of a number of US Forteans. Worth buying and keeping handy. RJMR

The Hynek UFO Report by Dr J Allen Hynek (Sphere 1978; 95p; pp299; bibl, 16pp photos) The publication of this book at the present time is obviously due to Hynek's recent elevation to superstar status via 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'. Obviously so because, frankly, this personal analysis of the recently declassified Project Blue Book files is a very dry piece of investigation with little to add to the comments made last year by Brad Steiger in his equally tedious book on the same subject. The signs are we may be about to witness the widespread (ie, non-UFOlogical-circle) acceptance of a semi-respectable cadre of old guard "experts" in the field. As most of its members are likely to subscribe to the ET argument, this in itself may be no bad thing from the point of view of those who favour the alternative, 'paranormal' argument; it being preferable to attack, rather than defend from, a position of entrenched commitment. SN

Many of the books reviewed in these pages can be obtained from or through the following specialists in Fortean, occult, UFO, magical, health, comics, SF and alternative publications. Contact them for mail order or special requests.

Compendium Books:
234/240 High Street, Camden, London NW1
Tel: 01-485 8944.

Dark They Were & Golden Eyed:
9-12 St Annes Court, London W1.
Tel: 01-734 4260.

The Cosmic Question by John A Keel (Panther 1978; 75p; pp224) Another title change for the British market: this was formerly 'The Eighth Tower'. I have a great respect for Keel, but I wonder where he is taking the line of speculation he began to develop in his earlier books, notably 'Operation Trojan Horse'. In that one he was nicely ambiguous in the way he presented his theory; reluctant to theorise in a specific sense and leaving a number of rough corners, both from obvious necessity and, one assumes, to leave room for fleshing out later. Since then he has started to cite specifics, and rather spoilt the original presentation. In Trojan Horse he put forward the idea that UFOs may be just one aspect of a 'force' that manifests in many ways, and was careful not to commit himself to any firm opinion regarding a possible controlling agency. Now he speculates that this 'control' is a frighteningly advanced computer at the far end of time, which has gone gaga and is responsible for our current closed cycle of unexplained phenomena and psychic harrassment. Perhaps he should be concentrating more on reinforcing his original theory and not be so anxious to construct an overall answer to his cosmic question. Let's hope he gets back to basics next time. SN

A Dictionary of British Folk Customs by Christina Hole (Paladin 1978; £2.50; pp349; bibl, ind.) A nationwide index of folk customs and practices, in alphabetical format, and including a useful calendar of the year's events. Nowhere near exhaustive of course, but I enjoyed it and it certainly has a function for reference purposes. SN

Glastonbury - Ancient Avalon, New Jerusalem. Ed by Anthony Roberts (Rider 1978 (Rev. ed.); £2.95; pp177; illoes) A fine anthology of 12 original articles pertinent to Glastonbury and the earth mysteries in general. Particularly good are Mary Caine on the Glastonbury Zodiac, Nigel Pennick on the Abbey, Kenneth Knight's Gematria in the Hebrew Cabala, and a too brief piece by John Michell; though none of the contributions is less than interesting and all display great knowledge of their subject. Many good illustrations, and each piece has its own bibliography. SN

The Space Gods Revealed by Ronald Story (NEL 1978; 80p; pp157; notes, ind, 16pp photos) Another from the lucrative anti-von Daniken industry, and by no means the best refutation of the hotelier's bestselling theories. God knows von Daniken has touted many ideas ripe for ridicule, but blanket condemnation as displayed by Ronald Story is not the way to go about it. Story seems to think that all contentious theories can be demolished simply by reference to an 'expert' in the relevant field. At no point is any attempt made to get to the origin of either myth (in the falsified sense) or scientific acceptance, making the book as suspect as that which it seeks to expose. SN

The Secret Country (More Mysterious Britain) by Janet & Colin Bord (Paladin 1978; £1.95; pp247; bibl,ind,illos) A very readable attempt to interpret the field of earth mysteries: ley lines, standing stones, henges, mounds, etc, in terms of folklore and 'race memory', now in p/b. With lots of well chosen and relevant pictures. SN

The Ley Hunter's Manual - A Guide to Early Tracks by Alfred Watkins (Pentacle Books, 6 Perry Road, Bristol 1; 1978; £2.25, pp 107; ind, illoes) Reprint of the 1927 edition.

Velikovsky Reconsidered by the Editors of Pensee (Abacus 1978; £1.50; pp274; ind) Now in p/b. Reviewed FT 19.

The Man in the Shroud by Peter M Rinaldi (Futura 1978; 90p; pp 127; bibl, notes, 14pp photos) Again in print: Turin Shroud.

Guide to PSI Periodicals 1978 - Newspapers, Magazines, Newsletters. Compiled by Inner-Space Interpreters, PO Box 1133, Magnolia Park Station, Burbank, Ca., 91507, USA; $3.00; pp100) Sixth edition. Elizabeth M Werner, editor. SN

*** Ogopogo - UK readers will be interested to know that the Canadian paperback Ogopogo by Mary Moon, reviewed last issue, can be obtained by Canongate Publishing Ltd, 17 Jeffrey St, Edinburgh EH1 10R.

*** We have many more paperbacks for review (including the Jim Brandon guide to Weird America) and an assessment of the 'Amityville Horror'. ***

journals

We would be obliged if readers writing to addresses or answering adverts found in our pages would say they saw the information in *Fortean Times*. It helps us spread the word, and judge the effectiveness of these services.

Pursuit Winter 78: articles on Nessie (mainly Searle's work), the Palenque remains, the biology of beings from low gravity planets, speculation on vibration energy & holograms. Articles meriting the attention of all serious Forteans are, John Ott on the role of artificial light and other radiations in influencing plant and animal growth (and even cancer!); Andrew Rothovius' analysis of the 'flap' effect from a comparison of the 1897 Ohio airship series and the spread of 'The Great Fear' in France in 1789 (note the numerical anagram there!); the text of the paper by R Martin Wolf before the Mexico City Conference on Paranormal Phenomena, a brilliant summary of new theories and how they might affect Fortean studies. For details write to SITU: Membership Services, RFD 5, Gales Ferry, CT 06335, USA.

INFO Journal 27 (Jan 78): East coast mystery booms; UFO 'triangles'; Swedish 'phantom snipers'; 'Sci-Phi'; notes old and new - 28 (Mar 78): Lake Champlain's monster; giant fish; 'Silbury Hill'; more notes on booms, Bigfeet, archived notes, etc. $10.00/£5.00/yr. INFO: 7317 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740, USA - or subscribe via FT (see p52). Also note that Fortfest 78 will be held over 5-6 Aug, at the Americana University, Washington; with speakers on UFOs, Bigfoot and monster research, ET life, ancient astronauts & cultures. Write to INFO for further details and booking.

ARB 8: the Anomaly Research Bulletin bounces back just when we were beginning to worry about its absence - fatter, meatier, good to sink Fortean fangs into. Articles on 'The Dover Demon'; odd goings on in cemetaries; 'parahumans'; notes on synchronicities, the LNM, and guidlines for field investigators; and editor Dave Fideler's chronology of 1977 mystery creatures, Bigfoot and phantom phelines (worth the entry price). ARB new price $5.00/£3.00/yr: 7098 Edinburgh, Lambertville, MI 48144, USA. This excellent Fortean journal deserves your support.

SIS Review 2:3 (Special issue 77/78): The whole issue, edited by Peter James, celebrates and re-examines the subject matter of Velikovsky's volume Ages in Chaos with some very thorough, stimulating and learned papers: 'Dating the "Admonitions" of Ipuwer';'A Chart to Illustrate the Conquest of Canaan'; 'The Hyksos & the Archeology of Palestine'; 'Did Thutmose III despoil the Temple in Jerusalem?'; 'Dating the El-Amarna Letters'; 'The Sulman Temple in Jerusalem'; 'The Two Jehorams'; 'A Chronology for the 18th Dynasty'; & 'Radiocarbon Dates for the 18th Dynasty'. The SIS also have ready a brief paper on 'A Revised Chronology for the Ancient Near East' which clearly sets out the matter at the heart of the controversy about Prof Velikovsky's work. All interested are recommended to write to the SIS Secretary, Ralph Amelan, 6 Jersey House, Cotton Lane, Manchester 20.

Brain/Mind Bulletin - a highly recommended fortnightly update on the very latest news, notes, discoveries and theories from the frontiers of psychology, learning, memory, biofeedback, perception, physics of consciousness, meditation, hypnosis, physics, parapsychology, creativity and related research programmes. $15/yr in US; outside US airmail $21.00/yr. Or write for details to B/MB: Box 42211, Los Angeles, CA 90042, USA.

Page Research Newsletter 22: chatty news, letters and often an article on UFO and Fortean subjects - good for keeping your finger on the pulse of what's happening in the USA. PRL also deal in rare and current books on Forteana and UFOs - send $2.00 or IPCs for a yrs supply of lists & newsletters, to PRL Box 5012, Rome, OH 44085, USA. Please note, this is a new address.

Specula, the Journal of the American Association of Metascience, edited by Tom Bearden, and dedicated to the unfettered scientific exploration of unexplained phenomena, ranging from healing to psychic photography. The group is conducted at a fairly lofty technical level, but all interested in the new theoretical developments out of the frontiers of the known and the unknown,

will be especially interested in the up-to-the-minute comments (eg in 1:1 - Jan 78) on Andrija Puharich's studies of Tesla's work, psychotronic weapons, astral projection, thoughtography experiments, Bigfoot, UFOs, the Geller effect, and the new paradigms of physics as well as the 'corrected physics'. Published quarterly: $15.00/yr. Specula: 1902 Willis Rd SE, Huntsville, AL 35801, USA.

Nessletter - a monthly newsletter for monsterhunters based on latest news from Loch Ness - $7.00/£1.75, from Rip Hepple: Huntshieldford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Aukland, Co Durham.

Stigmata 2 - already established newsletter for those interested in and investigating mutilation mysteries, primarily in the USA, but also worldwide. It seems to be getting useful media publicity, and the cooperation of many local police departments. Edited by Thomas R Adams. For details write, Project Stigma: Box 1094, Paris, TX 75460, USA, enclosing an SAE (those outside US enclose an International Reply Coupon).

Christian Parapsychologist 2:1 (March 78): mainly reviews this time; but articles on Christian mysticism,and mediumship. For details write to CP: St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA.

Journal of Meteorology - essential for the serious Fortean - recent issues have dealt with the freak snow in US; UK tornadoes, gales, blizzards, storms, the freak April rainfall, lightning strikes, ball lightning, magnifying mirages; drought in New Hebrides and heatwave in Australia. For details write: JMet: Cockhill House, Trowbridge BA14 9BG, UK.

Northern UFO News, the common communication journal between many UFO groups in northern Britain (and from other parts) acting as a clearing-house for the latest info. Really hot on UK CE3 events. Essential for latest UFO news. Write for details, NUFON: 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Lancs M30 6NJ. (Eg: the case that's about to break in FSR etc, about lights filmed for 50 minutes over Stonehenge, no less, was first told of here.) Jenny Randles, and NUFON, have received much press attention via the recent wave of CE3s and other UFO sightings, and to meet the PR head-on have produced a booklet, Close Encounters of the Northern Kind, summarizing some recent, with notes on UFO encounters, and what to do if you see one - price 30p from NUFOIS: 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3GB.

Awareness, journal of Contact UK, 6:4 (Winter 77): articles on UK wave of 77; sky mysteries; cloud UFOs; other notes new and historical. Excellent material. For details write, Contact UK: 28 Lodden Ave, Berinsfield, Oxfordshire.

EUFOSG Journal, regular news, data and often articles of interest (Winter 78, has the full text of the 'Alien' TV broadcast in UK's Southern Region last Nov), and sightings from Essex UFO Group. For details write, EUFOSG: 16 Raydons Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM9 5JR.

Flying Saucer Review 23:5 (Feb 78): Juicy details of close encounter cases in Spain (soldiers fire at entity); Chile (the soldier at Arica who vanished for 15 minutes & reappeared with 5 days advance on his calendar watch etc); Brazil (attempted abduction) and its parallel in France; MIB study by Dr Berthold Schwarz; humanoid at Epsom; car stop at Barnard Castle; solid light effect at Irlam; UFO oddities in Wales and Canada. Essential. FSR: West Malling Maidstone, Kent.

Pulsar 1:4 (Jan 78) articles on terrestrial zodiac symbols, UFOs, ancient maze designs, & general UFO interest. Pulsar - 30p/single copy - Pulse Publications: 29 Bairstow St, Preston, Lancs PR1 3TN.

Institute of Geomantic Research continue their onslaught against pamphlet paucity with the latest in their Occasional Paper series - 8: reprinting of an 1879 study of the group of 3 Cornish stone circles known as 'The Hurlers' 60p; 9:'The Ongar Zodiac' by Jim Kimmis, 85p; 10: reprint of 2 papers (1936 & 1940) on German 'Troytown' mazes, trans. from German. Two other publications, are the extensive IGR study of Cambridge Geomancy (£1.25); and a trans. of J Heinsch's classic 1938 'Principles of Prehistoric Sacred Geography' (50p), put out by Fenris-Wolf from the IGR address. Please add 10p or more for p&p to these prices. Joint the IGR (for £3.00/yr) and that years papers free. You also get 4 issues of the Journal of Geomancy. J.Geo 2:3 had articles on metrology; proofs of ancient trax; history of metric system; metrology & chance; dragonslayers; a Bristol zodiac; Hebden Bridge zodiac; a Stonegate zodiac. IGR:142 Pheasent Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8SD.

Ancient Skills & Wisdom Review - a review journal on latest mags, books, pamphlets on nearly all fringe and 'new wave' overground publications. £2/qtrly from Paul Screeton: 5 Egton Drive, Seat-

on Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 2AT. Paul also publishes Terrestrial Zodiacs Newsletter for those interested in the subject.

Stonehenge Viewpoint - newspaper format, long articles on stones, circles and related mysteries. Free copy can be had from SV: Box 30887, Santa Barbara, CA 93105, USA, or: 51 Charminster Ave, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 1RS.

The Ley Hunter - mandatory reading for all interested in ancient sites and Earth Mysteries. TLH:Box 152, London N10 1EP. UK & Europe £2.70. Overseas $8.00/£4.00. May be ordered thru' FT.

NEARA Journal, news, notes, studies and articles on the antiquities of New England, and related topics. Single copy: $1.50; Sub: $5.00/yr. NEARA are also publishing the proceedings of their 'Ancient Vermont' conference, including a debate on the pre-Columbian discovery of North America, and the preceding talk by Prof.Barry Fell. For details and membership info, write NEARA: 4 Smith St, Milford, NH 03055, USA.

The following foreign journals, on exchange with FT, may be of interest:-

French -- L'Heure d'Etre, religious, spiritual & psychic phenomena & topics: Autricourt, 21570 Brion sur Ource, Frnce. - Ouranos, UFOs & related topics: BP 38, 02110 Bohain, France. - Les Extraterrestres, UFOs & related topics: St-Denis-les-Rebais, 77510 Rebais, France. - La Revue des Soucoupes Volantes, UFOs and mysteries generally, some Forteana: 83630 Regusse, France. - Phenomenes Spatiaux, first class UFO research & reporting: GEPA, 7914.47 Paris, France.

Danish -- Forteana, newspaper format quarterly, excellent coverage of all Fortean topics, well illustrated: SCANFO, Classensgade 8, DK 2100 Kobenhaven Ø, Denmark. - Uforalia, a review journal of the Dansk UFO Center, books, mags etc: Postbox 7018, DK 9200 Aalborg SV, Denmark.

German -- Esotera, a glossy monthly on all aspects of the unknown, mysteries, parapsychology, some Forteana, & related subjects: Postfach 167, HvStephen-Str 20, 7800 Freiburg, Germany.

Dutch -- Tijdschrift voor Ufologie, quarterly review of UFO news, books etc: TVU, Lange Akker 28, 9982 HL Uithuizermeeden, Holland.

Swedish -- Arbetsgruppen för Ufologi, attempting to build up a specialist archive/library of UFO research documentation, publish a review/newsletter, Nyhetsblad; AFU: Box 5046, 151.05 Södertälje, Sweden.

Italian -- Clypeus, the leading Italian research group produce 2 journals: UFO & Fortean Phenomena, which is just what it says, covering events worldwide but often reprinted from other journals for the benefit of Italian readers; and Piemonte Insolito, on folklore & antiquities of Northern Italy; Highly recommended to all who read Italian: Clypeus: Casella Postale 604, 10100 Torino Centro, Italy. - La Quarta Dimensione, quarterly journal on mysticism, philosophy and 'new age' thought: Bresci Editore, Via A Vespucci 41, Torino, Italy. - Spazio e Civilta', inner and outer space, exploration oriented: Via M Benincasa 11, 84013 Cava de'Tirreni, Salerno, Italy.- Vimana, UFOs, folklore, some Forteana: CSUI, Via delle Cave 14, 38100 Trento, Italy.

Belgian -- Inforespace, first rate UFO research & investigation; their English language supplement, SOBEPS News, has been conspicuous by its absence, but we hope they will continue with this laudable project when possible: SOBEPS, Ave F Janson 74, 1070 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Serbo-Croat -- the Yugoslavian UFO research group, NLP, publish a bimonthly newsletter, Odiseja, on latest events and researches; edited by Milos Krmelj: Milcinskega 6, 61000 Ljubljana, Slovenija, Yugoslavia. (Welcomes exchanges.)

others

Star Encounters of the Jaws Wars Kind (a review of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' film, directed by Stephen Spielberg, released by Columbia) -- Spielberg is accurate on two points at least - chaos and confusion. This is not conveyed by any subtle skill of the movie-makers art but by a blasting soundtrack in which most of the cast are yelling against incessant background noise, be it a sandstorm, domestic TV, the technical chatter of a radar control center, or a milling panicky crowd. Most of the time it is difficult to to be sure of what is happening, but as the storyline is slight and the treatment broad rather than detailed, it appears to be the director's intention. The film relies on a youthful audience familiar with the general concept of the UFO - an older aud-

cont on p48...

obituaries: EFR & HSWC

We learn with regret of the death of two pioneers of British Forteanism within five days of each other: Eric Frank Russell and Harold SW Chibbett. Our sympathies are offered to their wives and families.

Eric Russell was born on 6 Jan 1905 at Sandhurst, Surrey, where his father was serving in the army. He spent his early years at military bases in Egypt and elsewhere, returning to England for an extensive technical and scientific education. For most of his life he lived and worked in the Liverpool area.

In the mid-1930s he began to write SF and joined the Fortean Society of New York. Following a visit to the US, he wrote his first major novel, Sinister Barrier, which combined his two interests. John W Campbell chose it to lead-off the first issue of his new fantasy magazine Unknown Worlds, and Eric's reputation was made. The novel has since been reprinted many times.

His writing was interrupted by WW2, but he continued to promote Forteanism throughout the war as the British representative of the Fortean Society. The first one-volume indexed editionof Fort's four books (Henry Holt, NY, 1941) owed more than a little to him, and with great effort he was able to import and distribute copies, which did much to popularise Fortean ideas. This was no small feat during the German U-boat attacks on Atlantic shipping when only priority cargo was shipped from the USA.

In 1941 he was conscripted into the RAF, and by 1945 he was in command of a mobile radio unit attatched to General Patton's army in Europe. His experiences when various concentration camps were freed made a profound impact and were reflected in his subsequent writing.

After the war he became the foremost British SF author; his stories and novels originally appearing in American SF magazines, mainly by his friend John Campbell. They have appeared in many languages and are still in print today. Most are influenced either by the Fortean philosophy of questioning dogma, or by the horror of military rule (which he saw as a consequence of not questioning dogma). To the end of his life he felt a bitterness towards Authority.

During his long creative period he continued to promote Forteanism, but the gradual decline of the Fortean Society of New York and the lack of popular interest reduced his enthusiasm. About 1960, at the height of his reputation, he stopped writing and withdrew from both Forteanism and SF, partly due to ill-health. He died suddenly on 28 Feb 1978, aged 73, probably from heart-strain following influenza.

Harold Chibbett was born 19 Feb 1900. After army service in WW1,he worked in the Civil Service in London and became interested in psychic research. He founded 'The Probe', a group which investigated occult phenomena...and joined the first London SF club (ca.1937). As a result he met Eric Russell in 1942, when the latter attended an RAF radio course at the London Polytechnic. The two became lifelong friends and took part in several investigations before Eric's course ended.

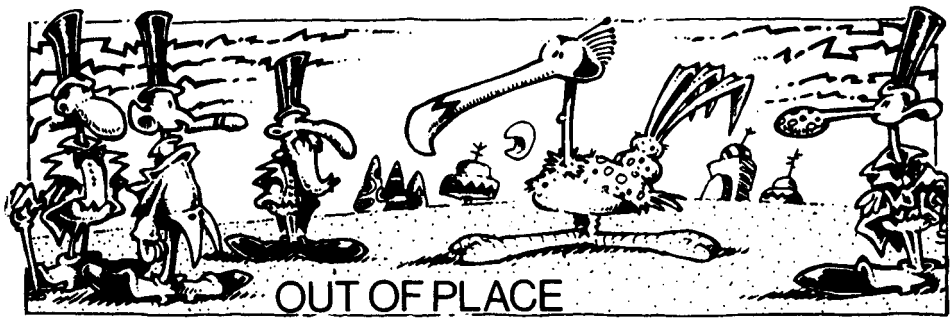
After the war, Harold extended his interests to cover many other paranormal subjects. In contrast to Eric he was able to devote much of his spare time to meeting and following-up people who had attracted his attention, and in the course of about 50 years he met and often worked with nearly every one in the British occult field. Crowley, Harry Price, Kuda Bux the fire-walker, Sammy Soal, Mrs Goldney and many others were amongst his acquaintances, and his philosophy of asking "Why?" something happened, rather than "How?" became a byword.

His health deteriorated in the late-1960s. As a distressing side-effect of radiation treatment he suffered from haemorrhages which ultimately caused his death. In 1969, he revived a wartime idea that he had produced in 1944 to maintain contact with his friends: a postal chain-letter - and in the last ten years of his life he circulated more than 600 issues of this postal-exchange at great personal expense and labour. It became a medium of communication on esoteric subjects without equal. Its members included many famous scientists and occultists. He conducted it in the Fortean mode of temporary acceptance of practically anything, and encouraged everyone to think for themselves and not to reject any possibility until they had done so. All who knew him were never quite the same again.

Harold Chibbett died, aged 78, on 23 Feb 1978, from a heart-attack, five days before his friend Eric Frank Russell. Their joint work in promoting Forteanism should never be forgotten.

Sid L Birchby - 18 May 1978.

cont on p43...



Well we haven't had a round-up of reports of lions, pumas etc on the loose in Great Britain for a long time (since FT18 & the 'Nottingham Lion' episode). On the subject of mystery animals generally, 1977 saw a bewildering number of reports from the USA. In the latest ARB (see our reviews of journals) Dave Fideler has patiently compiled a chronology of MAs; while in Fate Nov 1977 Loren Coleman detailed the wave of phantom panthers in Ohio; and Dave teamed up with Loren to present an overview of US phantom kangaroo reports from recent years, in Fate April 1978. And here we are, once more with feline:

'PUMA' - SURREY/SUSSEX etc

What was described by one paper as 'the summer ritual of puma spotting' got under way with the sighting, on 18 July 1977, of a "large, grey and lean animal with a small head and 3ft tail," in the grounds of a nursing home at Patcham, near Brighton. It was seen by Douglas Brownjohn, a director of the home, from a mere 40ft away, before it ran off into woods. A police hunt failed to flush it out. Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, Daily Express all 19 July 1977 (Cr: Mollie Cairncross, Sam, Paul Hudson,) One paper (D.Exp.) said there had been two sightings that day.

The next sighting we have record of was on 14 Oct 1977, by building workers on a site near Reigate, Surrey. One of the workers claimed to see it several times in the days that followed, and even managed to photograph it. The LEN news report on the 17th Oct mentioned that as the police had at least six more witnesses they were taking the photo and a cast of a pawprint seriously. Searches with tracker dogs through nearby woods failed as usual to find anything that we know of. The man who took the photo (one source said there was more than one photo), Keith Livingston, said he had brought his camera to work after seeing it the previous day, hoping it would show up again. He said it was definitely a large cat, the colour of a labrador, and looked like a lioness. Intrigued, I phoned Reigate police who referred me to the public relations dept of their Surrey HQ, where a very helpful officer gave me some not very helpful information. Yes, he said, they had examined Livingston's photos and in their opinion he had simply mistaken a "large housecat" on three seperate occasions. The image on the photos was too tiny to identify but they were certain it was a cat of some sort; and the conditions of the time the photos were taken, very misty morning, made the animal too indistinct. I was so disappointed by this I quite forgot to ask if they had actually enlarged the photos or not. Oh yes...the paw-print had been so poorly made that again identification was impossible. There was only one avenue left to persue - I asked them how I could contact Mr Livingston, and they could only suggest trying the building site at Gatton Close, near Gatton Point, Reigate. I wrote to him there, but the letter was soon returned unopened. If any reader in that area would like to help us locate Livingston and his photos, the only additional info we have is that he lives in Shere, between Guildford and Dorking - address unknown. Observer, News of the World both 16 Oct 1977; London Evening News 17 Oct 1977 (Cr: James Lake.)

Like all good mysteries the 'Surrey Puma' sometimes surpasses itself. Just to show that she is more than mere cat, she had the police out searching again on the 21st Oct, after two farmworkers swore they had seen a 'puma' at Send, between Guildford and Woking, not 16 miles from Reigate. Daily Mirror, Daily Express 22 Oct 1977 (Cr: Chris Hall.)

SEE LATE NEWS ITEM P47..

'PUMA/LION' - FURTHER NORTH

For good measure, we noted that dur-

ing the above 'flap', on the 15th Oct, there was a real lion scare when one escaped from a zoo in Sunderland, Northumberland. The incident was blamed on "vandals" - we suspect they might have been imaginary - and the lion was quickly caught. News of the World 16 Oct 1977.

Now if that time-coincidence alone wasn't a nod of the cosmic head towards us Forteans, I had to strain, while I was boggling, to sort the following out. The Sun, 15 Dec - just two months later - said armed police and farmers were out hunting on the 14th, at North Sunderland, for a sheep-killer, thought to be a puma. Wow! Sunderland linked in phenomenal punning through its recent lion-escape to Surrey 'Puma' sightings. Fortunately an eagle-eyed reader sent an additional clipping which helped clarify the situation. The Sun said the hunt was at a place called Bettyhill, but they had wrongly placed it in Sunderland - being a misprint for Sutherland, in Scotland! The misprint seems almost too good to be true - but the inclusion of the name Bettyhill adds another delicious layer to this saga - as UFO buffs will recognise the name of Mrs Betty Hill, the famous contactee now turned investigator of psychic phenomena! Anyway, back to the depredations at Bettyhill, Sutherland. On the morning of 14 Dec 1977, a gamekeeper, Donald Mackenzie, of Dunedin House, Bettyhill, and his son, found the carcases of six sheep out on the barren moorland. Then they saw what they believed to be "a lion or puma", shot at it, and believe they winged it. But it escaped. Only the day before, crofters out hunting foxes, started the cat-like beast from cover, and believe they too might have nicked it with their shots. The local report closes with the info that this same (or similar) animal was sighted back in the Spring, in Caithness. Aberdeen Evening Express 14 Dec 1977; Sun 15 Dec 1977 (Cr: Jake Williams, Paul Screeton)

For the period between the Spring and December sightings of a puma-like animal, above, on the northernmost edge of Scotland, we can only offer a series of 'lion' hunts, perhaps 70 miles further south across Scotland's least inhabited mountains, around Inverness. On 27 Sept a "lioness and two cubs" were seen in a field at Crask, near Farr, not 10 miles from Inverness, about 5.30pm... or so the report says - the only nearby Crask is in Strath Glass more like 20 miles away - and (hold onto your hats) the only Farr on my map is less than 2 miles away from the Bettyhill of above fame. Passing strange! Anyway; John Jenkins of Inverness, his son and nephew, all got within 20ft of this 'lioness' and her cubs, and saw them clearly. Sometime in the next two days the animals were seen again - by a boy at Culduthel, near Inverness. The police hunted on 30 Sept - no luck! Daily Telegraph 29 Sept & 1 Oct 1977; Sunday Express 2 Oct 1977 (Cr: Valerie Martin, Anon.)

Our last and latest record is that a "lioness or puma" was seen by a housewife at Cononbridge, near Dingwall, just north of Inverness, sometime on the 4th or 5th Feb 1978. She described it as a "big, powerful-looking cat of some kind," and added that in the same area last year two men had seen a 'lioness'. Sun 7 Feb 1978 (Cr: Paul Screeton.)

Considering the number of reports we have of large exotic predators, we hear very little of the depredation we could reasonably expect. In fact it's quite a rare report that mentions animal-slayings in the same breath as a mystery animal sighting; like the Bettyhill case above. Curiously, Fort has one for this area in Jan 1927 (see Books p600f). - that after strange pawprints and carcases of sheep and goats were found, a farmer in the mountains above Inverness shot and killed a "large, fierce yellow animal of unknown species." The slaughter continued, and another farmer shot another similar animal. Then a third animal was caught in a trap. London Zoo identified it as a lynx (which is not indigenous). The London papers of 14 Jan 1927 proclaimed the mystery solved!

'TIGER/COUGAR/PUMA' - CENTRAL ENGLAND

According to the Liverpool Echo 24 Jan 1978, sightings of a "mystery Beast" in the Bickerton Hills, Cheshire, near the middle of the month, were "solved last week" when a knowall from Chester Zoo decided that the 4½" pawprints in the area were made by a "large dog."

Such certitude deserves any raspberries it gets - and one was not long in coming. Whether or not the prints were "large dog", and whether or not they had any connexion with the Beast of Bickerton Hills is one thing - a moonlight close encounter with a large cat is quite another. Two youths, Mark Richardson and David Roebuck, were out at 10 o'clock at night, the bright moonlight making visibility good, when out of bushes in front of them came "a young tiger or cougar...partly hidden ...but certainly some kind of big cat

and its front legs appeared shorter than its back." A policeman added that there were no reports of missing animals and no livestock-killings in the area. (Cr: Ion Will.)

The last note we have to date on the subject 'at large' - is that a 'puma' was seen racing along Rectory Rd, Rochford, Essex. Police, with a logic almost idiotic in its simplicity, assumed someone's pet had escaped. London Evening Standard 4 May 1978 (Cr: I Will.)

MA - HONGKONG

On the evening of 30 Oct 1976, villagers in the Hang Hau area of Sai Kung, in HK's New Territories, saw what they thought was a large "leopard". A representative for Yau Yue Wan and Pik Uk villages said: "We didn't think it was a dog...The beast had glistering eyes, black-greyish hair and a long tail." He also said that in the past two weeks more than 20 dogs, some of them large, had been bitten to death in Pik Uk and Junk Bay, both close to where the beast was spotted. At this point a police search found nothing, and civil administrators said they had had no complaints from villagers.

A few weeks later, early in Dec 76, a villager from Hang Chai told police that he had seen a "tiger" twice in the last ten days, describing the animal as "about 3ft high, 4ft long, and of a dark colour". A police search found some pug marks and the matter was referred to the Ag.&.Fish Dept, which seems to have effectively silenced the mystery as far as further information goes. South China Morning Post 4 Nov & 9 Dec 1976 (Cr: our intrepid Far Eastern clipsters Guy Audebrand, Colin Johnson & Ion Will.)

MA - NEW ZEALAND

Sometime around 10 July 1977 a woman told incredulous police about a large tiger-like cat seen in her garden, in the Kaiapoi area of NZ, about 4am. A search turned up nothing. A few days later, about 21 July, the search renewed on a much larger scale after large paw-prints and droppings, positively identified as those of large cats like tigers or lions, were found on sandhills at Pines Beach. Although there were no reports of escaped animals, and no attacks on livestock, we are told there is enough wild game to keep a tiger alive. By the 25th there was still no sign of the 'Kaiapoi Tiger' and all the press and official signs that the unproductive mystery was soon to be dropped. The officer in charge of the hunt said he still thought the tracks were genuine, but that someone's private pet tiger had escaped and been secretly recaptured. Just how this was accomplished when his own men were vigilantly combing this area north of Christchurch we are left to imagine. Aukland Star (NZ) 22 & 23 July 1977; Herald (NZ) 25 July 1977; Sydney Morning Herald (Aust) 23 July 1977; Sun-Herald (Australia) 24 July 1977 (Cr: Mrs PD Dixon, Bill Chalker.)

MA - VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Someone once called the Antipodes 'the attic of the world' as far as the crazy local zoology goes - well, cryptozoologically speaking, it seems just as full of forgotten things (like the Bunyip) and mixed-up things (like the regular press confusion between marsupial tigers and marsupial wolves). Recently we were delighted to receive (from Bill Chalker, via the Bords) a copy of Bruce L Owens' article on 'The Emmaville Panther' (from Outdoors & Fishing, Australia, April 1977), the first detailed account of this feline phantom we had seen. It includes a very interesting photo, taken by a Ms Rilla Martin (whom Owens has failed to locate after exhaustive searches) of a very tiger-like animal seen in Victoria in 1964, and Owens is convinced from years of study that the 'Queensland Tiger', 'Queensland marsupial cat', 'Emmaville Panther' and the 'Victoria Tiger' (which Ms Martin snapped) refer to the same animal. Naturally the mystery quietens and pops up again from time to time, and the press never tire of reminding us that at the end of World War 2, US airmen, stationed in Victoria's Grampian mountains, loosed six pumas. The observant among you will note that the beasts in the following recent notes don't all have the puma's sandy colouring.

At Horsham, 320km NW of Melbourne, 3 hunters using spotlights at night encountered a "puma-like" beast about 30yds distant. Sun (Aust) 28 April 1977 (Cr: Bill Chalker.) Once more, the cosmic punster shows his hand - Horsham, back in England, is on the edge of the 'Surrey Puma' territory, and the Scottish Grampians, of course, range over the south of Invernesshire, on the other side of Loch Ness from the recent 'lioness & cubs' sightings mentioned above!

A report in the Daily Mirror (Aust) 15 Nov 1977, claims that after years of sightings in the area of Cambewarra Mountain, near Nowra, on the NSW coast south of Sydney, a "killer puma" had at last been shot by a father and son out hunting. In the mist on the mountain, they saw the large puma-like cat,

yellow eyes glaring, preparing to leap. They shot and skinned it. (Cr: Bill Chalker.)

Back in the Horsham area of the Wimmera Lands of Victoria, later that same month, two local department officials laying a poison trail in the bush encounter a very sleek "jet-black big, beautiful creature" about 50yds away "outlined clearly against a white sandhill...It was slender in the shoulders and rump, like a cat, with a very small nose and ears and a beautiful cat-like tail. It was about 60cm high and 1m long." It sat there sniffing the wind and then stalked off into the scrub, apparently unconcerned. The witnesses said they had heard of sightings of large black cats in the area during the last six years, but this was the first time they had ever seen one. Sun (Aust) 25 Nov 1977 (Cr: Bill Chalker.)

'TASMANIAN TIGERS' & 'WOLVES'

The Thylacine - a dog-like marsupial with dark hoop stripes on the hindparts of its slender body - is very rare in Tasmania and supposed to have been extinct on the Australian mainland for several thousands of years - the papers consistently confuse the issue by calling them both 'tigers' and 'wolves'.

The photo below appeared in the Sunday Telegraph (Aust) 27 March 1977,

labelled a female "mainland tiger", is clearly a Thylacine. A group of farmers had been observing a pack of them (in a deliberately unidentified area on the NSW/Victoria border) when they noticed tiny paws hanging from the pouch of one of the larger bitches. Conservationist Bruce Jacobs was alerted and they obtained several photos, including this one of a female believed to be carrying a baby in its pouch. (Cr: Bill Chalker.)

Another Thylacine was seen several times in the Wyong area, about 50mls north of Sydney, in the headlights of cars, in Aug 1977. Central Coast Express (Gosford, NSW) 26 Aug 1977 (Cr: Bill Chalker.)

1977 also saw several sightings on Tasmania itself, but although the witnesses say they are positive the animal was a 'Tasmanian Tiger', we cannot clearly make out whether they mean a marsupial wolf or a marsupial cat! In the second week of Feb one was seen by a woman in Black River, and there had been two other sightings in the area. Sunday Mirror (Aust) 13 Feb 1977 (Cr: B Chalker)

On the evening of 19 Aug, two policemen in a patrol car, driving between Gladstone and Derby on the NE tip of the island, about 11pm, almost hit a 'Tasmanian Tiger' as it sauntered slowly across the road in front of them. Sunday Telegraph (Aust), Sun-Herald (Aust) 21 Aug 1977; The Australian 23 Aug '77; Daily Telegraph 24 Aug 1977 (Cr: Bill Chalker, RTA Hill.)

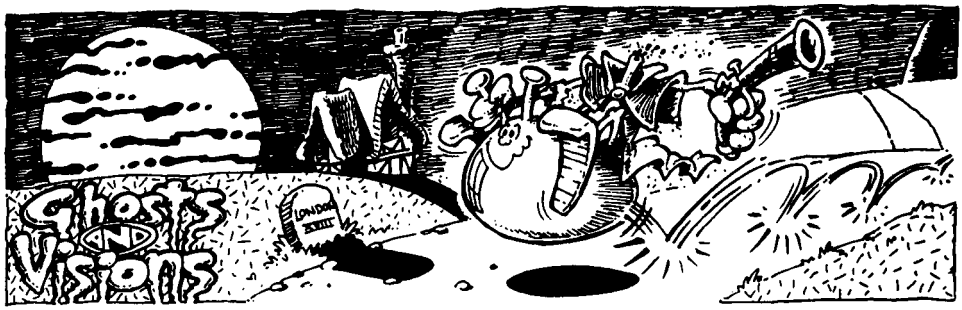
Fortean Computer / cont from p17...

mini-computers among smaller users and hobbyists. The remaining obstacle is knowledge.

I take the inevitability of Fortean use of electronic data processing as understood. I would like to appeal to any FT reader, who has knowledge and experience of systems analysis, programming, computer sales, any relevant field, to make themselves known to me. We need to plan and get knowledgeable advice for developing a program using a computer to its full advantage in our studies. Beyond the data handling side, we see the construction of special research programs and other avenues opening up for a Fortean database. A computer would also affect the future of FT with a word-processing and editing program. A long-term plan for compiling and coding data would be necessary. Are we eligible for grants or aid etc? Can the new TV data-networks (CEFAX etc) help us? And how will this affect Forteans, at home and internationally?

I see a new era opening up for the serious researcher with his own terminal and access to an authoritative Fortean database. If the prospect excites you, let's get together and make it work. But it will be long and hard work, so the faint-hearted need not apply. The prospects could take many forms, from jobs for the boys to a dynamic decentralised personal datanet. I'm serious, and if you contact me, I'll expect you to be also. I look forward to hearing from one or two of you; write via FT.

Bob Rickard.



PHANTOM PLAYMATES.

A few cases in which children were the major percipients:

Quinton, Birmingham: The Dutton Road council house of the Dennis family was haunted by a little, fat, red-faced, elderly man with a walking stick, according to 8-yr-old Beverley Dennis, who saw him often enough to be able to draw him. He kept waking her up and standing by her bed, although all the family of 5 had seen him. Albert, or Alfred (sources differ) as he was known also had a disconcerting habit of stamping round the house in hobnail boots, moving ornaments, calling the names of the family, and resisting exorcism. The ghost was identified from the description as being Alfred Harvey, who had lived in the house 15 years previously, dying aged 70 after threatening to come back and haunt the house. The Dennis family were asking the local Council for a move. D.Express, 15 Jan 73, News of the World, 21 Jan 73

Clifton, Nottingham: Another Dennis family were also having trouble with a ghost. Mr and Mrs Keith Dennis, and their four children fled their home after the eldest child, Mandy, 9, screamed after waking to see a grunting black shape at the foot of her bed, as the room went icy cold. The phantom had first appeared to Mr Dennis, but he had been too frightened to tell his family about it. The story was featured on the local "Midlands Today" TV programme, in which psychic Simon Alexander claimed to have seen a face at the window when visiting the house. The house was to be exorcised by Rev Frank Crowther, who had carried out 6 other council house exorcisms in Clifton in the preceding few months. The ghost was thought to be that of a previous resident who was said to have appeared to his wife while she survived. Both were cremated and their ashes scattered in the front garden of the house. Nottingham Evening Post, 19,20 Aug 75 (Cr: DO Mayes).

Eastbourne, Sussex: another council house, the home of Albert Morgan and his family, was haunted by a grey-haired old lady with bandaged legs, likened to the first occupant of the house. She appears to be solid, and has been seen by the 2 Morgan children, aged 8 & 6, who asked their mother who the old lady was that was living with them. She has made frequent appearances, on the stairs, in the toilet, but most favours sitting on a pile of logs in a storeroom, vanishing instantly rather than fading away. Occasionally she makes her invisible presence felt too, moving through the house and opening doors. The Morgans apparently felt no fear of the apparition. Reveille, 9 Jan 76 (Cr: N Watson)

Paignton, Devon: The Prince Regent Hotel, managed by Don Mudge, was haunted by a ghost who switched on radios and lights, and tampered with beer in the cellar. But he especially appeared to 6-year-old Paul Mudge, as the shadowy figure of a man sitting on his bed. Paul was far from frightened...he was trying to find out the ghost's birthday so he could send a card (to where?) D. Mirror, 12 May 76.

Hyde, nr Manchester: The ghost of a woman in grey dress and bonnet appeared several times in 3 weeks to Peter Atherton, 12, of Sussex Place. She smiled at him, but he was frightened because he didn't know what she wanted. A couple of weeks later, he was looking through some old family photographs, and recognised

one as the ghost: his great, great grandmother, who died in the 1880s. The family put flowers on her grave at Mobberley, Cheshire, in the hope of laying the ghost...but we have no word of the case since. News of the World, 11 Dec 77. (Cr: CR Mather).

A COUPLE OF FREAKS.

Elsewhere in this issue we deal with finds of incomplete bodies; now, an incomplete ghost:

Vanderbijlpark, S. Africa: Mr Lourens Killian and his family moved into No 1, C M van den Heever St. on a Monday. On Tuesday, a legless ghost of an old man, covered in long hair and with glowing eyes, appeared first to the maid, Emma Mtimkula, and then to Mrs Koekie Killian. Drifting through the air accompanied by a cold wind, the ghost also appeared to a neighbour. Through that week, the ghost appeared several times to the whole family, and on the Friday the family moved again, to another house in the same town. Come Monday, in the new house, Mr Killian felt a cold wind pass through him, took 3 blankets, kissed the children, and disappeared. Mrs Killian returned to the first house, and was duly chased by the ghost again. The next day, after the case had received enough publicity to draw crowds of ghost watchers, an unidentified man living on a plot outside the town approached Mrs Killian and offered to rid her of the ghost. Digging under a willow tree in the garden, he found a wooden doll with hair, a face, and nails through it. He talked to the doll, 'made it harmless' and reburied it. The ghost was not seen again. Mr Killian returned the following day, and then the whole family disappeared, along with their furniture. It was thought they had returned to their first home in Port Elizabeth. Rand Daily Mail, 11,12,13,15(?) Nov 75. (Cr: CJ Holtzhausen).

And from a lack to a surfeit:

Oviedo, N. Spain: A white clad phantom had made several appearances in the town, forcing people to kneel down and pray. It was variously reported as having two heads, or two green lanterns on its head. Anyone know more about this? The Journal (Newcastle) 3 Dec 76 (Cr: P Screeton), Sun, D Mirror, 4 Dec 76.

FACTS ON FIGURES...

Having an hour to spare while compiling this column, I did a swift and not very thorough survey of the ghost-apparitions in the first 25 issues of FT, 90 in all, including the above, using only those cases where human faces or forms were actually seen (the rapid approach of the almighty deadline prevented me extending my research).

Percipients: the major percipient was Male in 34 cases, female in 26, multiple or unidentified in 30.

Apparitions: Male forms:40, Female forms: 31, Unidentified:19.

In slightly more detail...

Male percipients saw: 15 Male, 9 Female, 10 unidentified.

Female percipients saw: 17 Male, 7 Female, 2 unidentified.

Unknown or multiple percipients: 8 Male, 15 Female, 7 unidentified.

My original notion had been that females might see more male ghosts, (which they do), and males see more females (which they don't). So all the above figures seem to show is a preponderance of males both in percipients and apparitions. Can we perhaps tempt someone into a more thoroughly researched ghost-sexing survey?

SM

BINDERS

Some readers have wondered what happened to our plan to have binders made for their collections of FT. We had a quote for the smallest possible economical number (200) of a very neat and handsome design, however to date the orders for binders have been very low indeed (apx 10%). We fully intend to go ahead with this plan but it must wait until we can afford to tie up a chunk of our funds in a large number of binders which may or may not be sold eventually. Those of you who are fed up waiting, and who have paid the £2/each we asked for as an initial figure, may ask for a refund, or have the credit set against a sub-renewal, back-issues etc. Just write in... As some consolation to those who have ordered them so far, we promise they will not incur any extra charges, but will receive their binders (when available) at the £2 price. We must close the order books until we can next go ahead firmly, but by then, of ccurse, they are bound to cost a bit more than £2. More news when known.

'THE PARADIGMS ARE SHIFTING'

an introduction to new thought on reality and the brain/mind problem

by BOB RICKARD

Perhaps the single most exciting aspect of Charles Fort's work which attracted me was his realisation of the transience of all phenomena; that they don't just stop but transmute into other phenomena changing and merging in a continuous and infinite flux of shifting appearances. At this time of my life I was afire with Eastern mysticism and Fort's vision appeared to me to be a uniquely Western expression of a very ancient cosmology typified by this imperfectly remembered fragment of a Vedic hymn:

'Never the Spirit was born;
Endings and beginnings are dreams.
Never was time it was not;
The Spirit shall cease to be never.
Birthless, deathless and changeless,
Remaineth the Spirit forever,
Dead though the house of it seems.'

Fort called his vision 'Continuity'. We could never know absolute universal values, he argued, but what we experience are the graduations between extremes. For example; absolute heat, up, good, black etc become more hypothetical the more we chase them, and so do their extreme opposites, absolute cold, down, evil, white etc. They are concepts. But in the experimental universe, Fort said, everything contains everything else in varying degrees. Heat, up, good and black etc can only be defined in terms of their opposites, and vice versa.

The inescapable conclusion is that all forms of measurement, representation or partition of the universe into finite units, symbols and categories are quite arbitrary and can never guarantee any congruence with the hypothetical absolute values they are supposed to represent.

The immediate effect of this approach is apparently to divide the universe into complementary forms: the infinite and the finite, the numenal and the phenomenal, the universally latent and the particularly expressed, etc. The expediency of this has suited mens' purposes throughout history despite its limitations and the warnings of mystics, mediums (and today, even physicists) that it is not enough. The wedge between the forms was driven home around the 13th century by the speculations of Albertus Magnus, St Thomas Aquinas, Roger Bacon and William of Ockham who sought a distinction between science and theology, matter and mind, Man and God, etc – and upon this 'Cartesian split' later philosophers, like Francis Bacon, laid the foundations of the modern scientific method, upon which the modern world has built a shrine to all that is material, finite and transient.

Science has changed quite a lot from Fort's day but his observations are still valid because he was laying bare the processes by which we, as fallible humans, distort by carelessness and fear the very mirrors in which we have to see the universe reflected (we'll come back to this point). Fort's basic argument is straightforward and contained in the opening chapter of *Book of the Damned* (1); and the remainder of his works amplify and illus-

trate his points. The fabulous 'scientific experiment', Fort said, is in essence an attempt to define a part of the universe by excluding the rest of the universe. It ends up, like all other semantic creations, an arbitrary statement that only works within its own parameters. It may work, but only locally, finitely and when supported by circular reasoning (2) – there can be no confirmation in any absolute sense (as eg suggested by the word 'law') that the same experiment will work in the same way, anywhere in the universe, or for all time. Yet, extrapolating from the local and particular to the universal, the orthodoxy of Science behaves as if its 'laws' were universal. With many Scientists (3) this is an act of faith every bit as fundamental to their cosmology as a belief in God is to devout monotheists.

The popular image of Science is that it should be reasonable, reassuring, conservative, incontrovertible and authoritative. The trouble is that many Scientists believe this too. In terms of the human spirit there is no inexorable march toward a glorious extra-galactic sunset. True science is a warfare with Reality as its prize; the Known against the Unknown. The tiniest battles topple semantic universes and shape their replacements. Like Castaneda's sorcerer (4) the true scientist must be impeccable.

Science, then, is a semantic construction through which we filter the universe. It restricts our incoming data as effectively as the finite limits of our senses. So Fort decided to look outside Science at the data it excluded, rejected, ignored or suppressed. He surmised that in the realm of reported experience there were many reflections of strange aspects of the universe (or even of different universes) which an ignorant science could not recognise, and a fearful science would not. These fragments of a shattered universe he called 'the Damned' because by design or accident they had been excommunicated and banished to an outer darkness of neglect. From his huge data collection – his own estimates ranged from 40,000 to 60,000 notes at various times – he saw clearly that if the semantic straightjackets could be avoided, much of our experience of the world suggests characteristics the very opposite of those Science valued so fiercely.

This universe of Fort's had an 'underlying oneness' in which phenomena were like islands in a sea: separated above the surface but connected to each other through the bedrock, accounting for both individuality and difference in the same theory (5). Continuity emphasises contiguity over isolation. Strictly, a phenomenon is the result of the complex interaction of all the forces operating in the universe at that moment through that nexus . . . but more than that it has temporal extension too. Conventional physics tends to deal with moments in time, split off from the universal flux, frozen like a photograph while events continue on regardless. Time is as much a semantic construction, a tool of the mind, as space, or any other concept.

For me the notion of Continuity had the same sort of satisfying appeal I found in the metaphysics of Eastern mysticism, particularly in Ch'an or Zen Buddhism, or the older Taoism. It united opposites and transcended them, suggesting a unity greater than the sum of its parts. It defied definition, subdivision or categorizing showing these to be illusory, however much we depend on them in our affairs. The Taoists in particular voiced the folly of ignorant dependance on the artificially created reality in the face of the greater one. It was both beyond and the source of all appearances; if it could be heard, seen or spoken about it was not the source but a reflection. 'That which imparts form to forms is itself formless. Therefore Tao cannot have a name.' (6).

Continuity, manifesting in the world of human experience, takes two simultaneous and paradoxical forms: one implies a connecting principle linking every thing; and the other a state of connexion in which all things are both united or contiguous while maintaining any individuality they may have. These aspects apply to the Absolute Principle, whether conceived of in theistic terms (God, Allah, etc, beside whom there is no other . . .) or non-theistic terms ('the Aleph', or point that contains all other points, etc – or 'the Tao', the 'Uncarved Block', etc).

However, they also apply to the paradoxical states of existence currently being conceptualised in modern high energy physics, where matter is seen to be another form of energy (or vice-versa), and in which energy can function simultaneously as a wave and a particle. (7)

Recently, the psychologist Lawrence LeShan outlined a fresh approach to the mysteries of parapsychology based on his intelligent studies of psychic healing (8). In his first book he claims that the breakthrough came when he shifted approach to ask a new kind of question; as a scientist he had been asking: 'How does a sensitive gain information not known to her by normal channels?' or 'How does a psychic heal?' After getting nowhere for a long time, he tried asking: 'What goes on when it is done; what is the structure of the paranormal event when it happens?' Basically he found two complementary answers which must be considered together. Firstly, the medium or healer was in an altered state of consciousness; and secondly, felt that there was complete unity between themselves and the universe which transcended normal limitations, including space and time . . . and of course, the patient or source of information. LeShan concluded from a pioneering programme – in which he taught himself and others to heal effectively by shifting their awareness to this 'Clairvoyant' mode of being – that 'reality' is determined by our mode of consciousness; and that in the greater Reality of the universe many different modes of reality, each mutually exclusive and obeying their own sets of rules, can be operating simultaneously; and that a person can, and does, shift continuously between these different modes every day.

About the same time, another breakaway psychologist, Joseph Chilton Pearce, was also suggesting that 'reality' is not necessarily physically determined, but a mental phenomenon. Pearce's argument overlaps and illuminates LeShan's. He says that all our criteria for determining what is real are the products of social and cultural conditioning; that we are born with an instinct to form a semantic conception

of the universe (through which to regulate our growth and adaption on which personal survival depends) and just as automatically we are initiated into the consensus of reality of our parents (9). This adult consensus of reality has evolved over millenia, like an organism, forced to change and adapt or perish, in a continuous non-material transmission (10). The consensus is a unifying pool of references, symbols and formulae, accumulating from practical use and tradition, which dominates our perceptions and conceptions, and provides the language through which we communicate with others and the universe (11) and on which our social survival depends. Circumstances ensure that we are imprinted with the adult consensus from the moment we are born. It surrounds us, and at the time of optimum imprinting overwhelms us – in our state of innocence we are unable to resist with a personal reality of our own (12).

The ability to form new or alternate realities is never lost, but in most of us lies buried under the weight of millions of people and centuries of their common acquiescence. Acquiescence, because part of our conditioning involves the subtle undermining of any hope of revolt against this semantic tyranny – by the age of seven, reckons Pearce, we are so completely in the grip that even rebellion is only in terms allowed by the consensus. The consensus colossus has to have some degree of flexibility to survive, but it is slow and delayed. Man still has the capacity for inventive and creative acts, and where these catch the imagination of more and more people, they form the nucleus of a smaller consensus. As they grow they get strong enough to challenge the prevailing consensus – the loser is soon forgotten outside the history books. Should I wish to levitate, I'll have to overcome my own conditioning to convince myself that such an idea is absurd and 'against science and nature', that levitation is not only possible but that I can do it, and then convince other people to believe in the same things. Any new perception or idea has to run the same gauntlet, and the more fundamental its threat against its older counterpart the harder it is resisted (13). When it comes down to it the inertia of the many must be overcome before any idea gets a foothold. There is strong evidence from LeShan, Pearce and others that new or alternative realities can be created and sustained by groups of people (14). But work on testing, applying and understanding these new approaches has barely begun. They are exciting breakthroughs because they offer a more inclusive view than the present scientific orthodoxy – a view which includes parapsychological and paraphysical phenomena for starters.

One of the more important insights these ideas give us is the degree to which the human mind actually creates a complex replica of the universe, and psychological and cultural processes to reinforce this artificial reality as the prime reference for personal and social behaviour. The model reality acts as a sophisticated buffer, a self-defence mechanism to protect man from the universe. Desperate for security and fearful of change, man accepts the limitations of a semantically structured universe as the lesser of two evils – it at least offers a refuge while resisting growth; whereas the other path leads to illumination or madness. So naturally language-orientated man feels threatened by that which defies or transcends expression in categories, labels or measurements. LeShan and Pearce both voice the deep fear with which many (especially those who consider themselves sincerely rational) face what Pearce calls 'the empty category' – a fear that should they recognise even for a split second that any of their cherished values (especially strong beliefs in dogmatic principles) may be in error then their entire world will 'collapse into chaos', for then truly would the universe seem a mad place and we would be powerless to keep its manic shouts from echoing within our own terrifying empty shells. We need language, symbol, the semantic consensus of reality to structure the formless void, to bring order out of chaos . . . at any price (15).

Fort's experiment was to observe relationships between things, not the things themselves . . . and it certainly yielded an exciting new approach to the world of phenomena. This view has since been independently supported by Capra, Pearce and LeShan, and I refer the reader to their important books for discussions, authorities, examples and further reading. Fort concluded that individual existences (including our own) bore the same relationship to the absolute totality, as, say, a cell to the whole body; and that this relationship (part to the whole and vice versa) was a primal organising force structuring all the expressions in both directions. Fort put his conception of the reflexive organic universe in these terms:

'. . . I can think of our existence as an Organism. If human thought is a growth, like all other growths, its logic is without foundation of its own, and is only the adjusting constructiveness of all other growing things. A tree cannot find out, as it were, how to blossom, until comes blossom-time. A social growth cannot find out the use of steam-engines, until comes steam-engine-time. . . . no part of a growing plant needs guidance of its own devising, nor special knowledge of its own as to how to become a leaf or a root.' (16)

Or as Fort expressed elsewhere: 'The whole is God to its parts.'

Recently, another piece of the puzzle emerged – perhaps because its time had come, for like the power of steam, the properties of laser-light had been known for some time before the invention of its applications. I'm referring here to the hologram which contains in every part of it the information to reconstruct the whole picture according to the special position of that part in relation to the scene pictured (17). Karl Pribram, a neuropsychologist at Stamford University, California, and David Bohm, a physicist at the University of London, postulate that 'primal reality would be an invisible, omnipresent matrix of energy frequencies encoding the sum total of information about the universe and its contents into every subdivision (however minute) of itself. Like the 'Uncarved Block' of the Taoists, infinite potential for form lies pregnant in every part of it, until an act of expression mutilates its completeness and imprisons it in finite form.

The brain, acting like 'a hologram interpreting a holographic universe' decodes according to its organic and semantic limitations. As we have seen,

these limitations are largely set by ourselves from birth (barring of course congenital defects), and they come in 'sets' which in turn determine the various types of consciousness in which we need to function. It is well known that the universe contains far more information than that which trickles through our perceptual channels. Now we have a model for the way in which the brain is programmed to select and reject different sets of phenomena and their interactions in order to construct creatively the relevant 'concrete' model reality complete with its appropriate rules and phenomena.

The hologram model has so far proved so satisfying in its applications in offering a more simple and elegant solution to the diversity of phenomena, that in its short existence so far it has not met with any serious criticism – in fact it has proved so exciting to researchers in physics, psychology, biology, genetics and cybernetics that the *Brain/Mind Bulletin* (an excellent newsletter that serves these and other overlapping interests) brought out a special issue devoted to the discussion of the ideas of Pribram and Bohm on this subject (18). Pribram confidently believes that '. . . we're in the middle of a paradigm shift that encompasses all of science'. One unexpected benefit has been to parapsychologists and paraphysicists who also see in the hologram model the foundation of new theories for many (if not all) the genuine phenomena in their specialties which apparently contradict the present known 'laws' of science – theories which will allow for scientific testing and prediction, and account for the phenomena in a way which will be more acceptible generally to their scientific colleagues. (19)

Indeed this approach is so new and startling, uniquely merging both science and mysticism, that its full impact and implications will not be known for some time. Pearce and LeShan laid the groundwork for the acceptance of this theory in parapsychology and the new studies of altered states of consciousness, and it provides a scientific illustration of what Fort meant by 'Continuity'.

RJM Rickard April 1978.

Notes & References.

1) First published in 1919; collected and reprinted with his three other books in *The Complete Books of Charles Fort* (Holt, NY, 1941; Dover, NY, 1974).

2) For the full Fortean nuance, the reader must serve his apprenticeship and read through the *Books*, wherein lie many illustrations of the limitations of orthodox thought (eg. strata dated by the fossils found in them, and fossils dated by the strata in which they were found). This logic-paradox of the difficulty of absolute proof ensures, to quote Sir Karl Popper, that 'every scientific statement must remain tentative forever. It may indeed be corroborated, but every corroboration is relative to other statements which, again, are tentative'.

3) Science with a capital 'S' denotes the dogmatic orthodoxy, which these days owes more allegiance to the political and commercial sources of its funding than to the unbiased quest for truth and understanding – similarly Scientists (as opposed to scientists) tend to be 9-5 bureaucrats motivated more by the need for status, security and reward than the 'lust to know'. Hence such statements as: 'not all Scientists are scientifically minded'. (Bernard Heuvelmans), 'Science is not always what Scientists do', (J Allen Hynek), and 'Science has done its utmost to prevent whatever science has done', (Fort).

4) Despite the exposé of Carlos Castaneda by Richard deMille (see review of his *Castaneda's Journey* in FT 21/35) as a literary hoax, there is no denying that Castaneda's books contain genuine scholarship and insight. I have no hesitation in referring the reader to his *Tales of Power* for a brilliant evocation of the noumenal and phenomenal aspects of the world, which he calls the 'Nagual' and the 'Tonal'. DeMille shows that Castaneda was well aware of the work of Joseph Chilton Pearce (and perhaps LeShan for all we know; both of whose thought we summarise below) and lost no time in incorporating Pearce's views in some detail into the lessons of his (Castaneda's) Yaqui Indian sorcerer, Don Juan Mattus.

5) The caveat is that you must recognise that you are still thinking semantically. A model of the universe may be more complete than the scientific model, and may approximate more clearly to the universe itself, but will still remain a model.

6) *Chuang-tzu* ch.22.

7) See Fritjof Capra's *The Tao of Physics* (many editions) for a sensitive and intelligent study of the similar pronouncements of mystics (both East and West) and modern physicists.

8) Lawrence LeShan: *The Medium, The Mystic and The Physicist* (Ballantine Books, NY, 1975); and *Alternate Realities* (Sheldon Press, London, 1976).

9) Joseph Chilton Pearce; *The Crack in the Cosmic Egg* (Pocket Books, NY, 1973); and *Exploring the Crack in the Cosmic Egg* (Pocket Books, NY, 1975).

10) . . . similar to the genetic transmission of life, regardless of species or form. Truly it is said (by Heathcote Williams) 'Life doesn't give a rat's ass who lives it!'

11) The arbitrary nature of language as a model of the universe was illustrated by Martin Gardner, whose *Fads and Fallacies in the Name of Science* (Dover, NY, 1957) contains a profile of Fort and Forteanism. Gardner observed that a science that decided to accept red things and reject yellow would be in trouble over orange. The reflexive nature of language prompted the physicist Werner Heisenberg (quoted by Capra) to say that in much of science, 'What we observe is not nature itself, but nature exposed to our method of questioning'. Language not only interrogates the universe but structures all the responses. I like the comment of the Duck in the adventures of Alice, who observed innocently: 'When I find a thing it's usually a frog or a worm'.

12) There are interesting implications in this about the essential nature of man; e.g. in the problem of feral children, it could be argued that at the time they were ready they were imprinted with an imperfectly expressed wolf's consensus reality, or some other, for barring mental debility and a quick rescue there have been little or no successful rehabilitations into human society.

13) Progress is never easy or overnight. See Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (University of Chicago Press; 2nd edn, 1970) for a superlative historical assessment of the resistance of the Old Dominant to the New (Fort's terms). Such resistance seems to be a grander form of the resistance to change within ourselves. The breakthroughs do not always come as smoothly as we like to suppose but often only after we have prepared the ground with a frustrating and fruitless long-drawn out wrestle with a problem, and suddenly, in a moment of illumination, we make the jump to a new way of looking at the matter which brings with it an exciting and often 'obvious' solution. Social and personal history is full of such discontinuities.

14) One exciting example is the work of the New Horizons Research Foundation, of Toronto, in scientifically creating a 'poltergeist' in their lab! -- see their reports in *Conjuring up Philip* by Iris M Owen (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Toronto, 1976).

15) see back to Note 11. One drama of terror was briefly mirrored in the *Observer* 11 and 18 Dec 1977, & 1 Jan 1978. Dr Harold Hillman, of Surrey University, has claimed that at least five or the main structures of the cell, as revealed by the electron microscope, are in fact artifacts generated by the methods of preparing the sample. They have to be 'stained' by heavy metals or they cannot be seen by the electron beam. . but this seems to create illusions, e.g. the two-line appearance of the cell 'unit membrane'. It seems that once again man has come up against the barrier-fact that what he sees is a product of his own language or technique. In this case no-one knows what the detail of the natural unstained cell looks like. This suggests, says Hillman, that research programmes all over the world 'are using extensive resources and skilled personnel in a quest which can never give them meaningful results.'

It seems that publication of Dr Hillman's paper has been 'inexplicably' delayed, and has been emotionally resisted with inadequate arguments by the Royal Microscopical Society. Last I heard, Dr Hillman had challenged them to a debate before a scientific audience. Silence!

16) Fort, *Books*, p557.

17) Holography, or 3D photography, was first described in 1947 by the brilliant Prof. Dennis Gabor; but it had to wait until after 1969 before successful holograms were constructed with the newly invented laser. A laser beam is split, half to illuminate the hologram plate, the other half to illuminate the scene or object from which the reflected light is directed to the plate. This 'negative', made without lenses, is not like a photograph but consists of the interference patterns between the two beams of laser light, looking a lot like the intersecting ripples on a pond when stones are dropped in different places. When a laser beam is shone through the hologram plate, it projects a 3D image of the scene. The interesting thing is that this image is relative to the direction of viewing. If we had holographed a table, for instance, a beam shone downward through the top part of the plate would show the table seen from the angle (i.e. the top of the table); now, if you angle the beam to point upwards, the image of the table will tilt to show the underside as though you were actually looking from that angle. You can do this in every part of the plate because each part has all the information to reconstruct the whole image – unlike a negative, you could get the whole picture from a tiny portion snipped off at random.

18) *Brain/Mind Bulletin* (2:16) 4 July 1977. A complimentary copy of this issue may be had on request, from *Brain/Mind Bulletin*, Box 42211, Los Angeles, CA 90042, USA.

19) There have been several holistic ventures into Forteana to my knowledge. My colleague, R Martin Wolf, of SITU, read a paper at the First International Congress of Paranormal Phenomena (Mexico City, 19-27 Nov 1977) which superbly summarizes modern Fortean phenomena in the light of the new theories we have mentioned here; and I urge all interested readers to read this paper in the Winter 1978 issue of *Pursuit* (see our journal review section for SITU details). Coming next issue in FT is a paper by Tom Bearden, who seems to have come to similar conclusions about alternate realities and Fortean phenomena but from his own deliberations on the nature of a physics which transcends the limits of orthodox physics.

Obituaries cont from p32...

I would like to take this opportunity to express my own appreciation of the work of Eric Russell and Harold Chibbett. At the time I began The News (as FT was then called) EFR, with characteristic humour, declined my invitation to contribute material. It was 1973; he had been an active Fortean for nearly 40 difficult years, and felt he had earned his rest. I had long been a fan of his SF writings, and indeed it was mention of Fort in some of his stories (and in the editorials of John Campbell, in Astounding SF, as Analog was then called) which alerted me to Forteanism. The first Fortean book I ever read was EFR's Great World Mysteries, which changed my life. My contact with Harold Chibbett was more recent, and apart from one brief meeting, consisted of sporadic correspondence over the last three years. He always seemed to have the time for his correspondents; always witty, informative, and always encouraging. To judge from the rollcall of names on many of his newsletter-files, there are a goodly number of the famous, and the unknown, who owe him a huge debt of thanks, for almost single-handedly keeping Forteans in contact with each other. (His newsletter will be continued by Sid Birchby - see the ad on p47). For my part this debt of appreciation and gratitude for the encouragement and influence these two pioneers had on my own endeavours will be better expressed in the pledge that FT will continue in their spirit of dedication and respect in the service of Forteans and Forteanism. Wherever they are now, I like to think that they are with Fort gossiping like long-lost friends newly-met in some celestial tavern. RJMR

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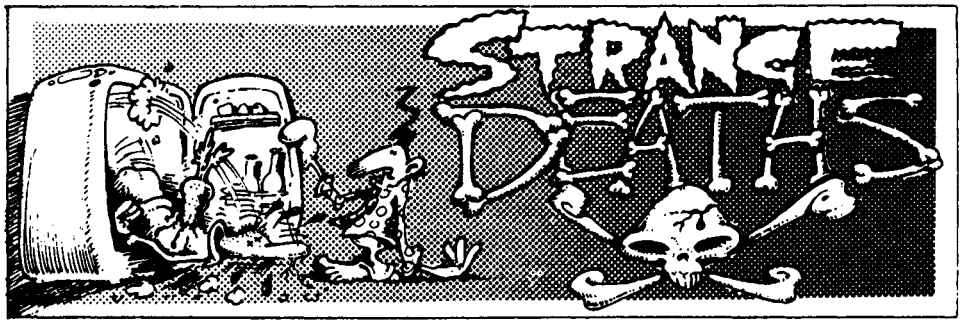


BITS AND PIECES...

Raking through a file of body-reports can be depressing at the best of times, so this issue we're turning to lighter matters: persons lighter by an arm, or a leg, or...

HEADS...

A pair of twos...

Wandsworth Common, London: on 11 Oct 75 a skull was found in a pond and sent to Scotland Yard for forensic tests. Another skull had been found in the same pond in July, but tests on it were not complete at the time of the second find. Sunday Express, 12 Oct 75.

Trinidad, Colorado: Around 18 Apr 77, the mummified heads of a man and woman aged about 60 were found in a sealed, waterfilled 5-gallon greasebucket, which had been standing in a junkyard (one report says a field) for 3 to 6 months. Police sent the heads to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for identification, began searching for other remains, and checked local cemeteries...but obviously none too well, for it was more than a week before the corresponding bodies were found in a mausoleum, variously reported as being only 50 or 300 yds away. Graveyard vandals were blamed, as other coffins in the same crypt had been disturbed. Valley Courier (Alamosa, Co) 19 Apr 77, Daily Courier Democrat (Russellville, Ark) 21,28 Apr 77, Sterling Journal-Advocate, 2 May 77. (Cr: TR Adams)

...AND TAILS.

The other side of the coin...

Brake Hill Farm, Cockley Cley, Norfolk: On 27 Aug 74 the headless body of a shapely young woman, 5ft 1in high and 23-30 years old, wearing a pink nightdress, was found in a trackway, tied up and wrapped in a plastic sheet. Four months later she was buried, still unidentified, the cause of death still unknown. News of the World, 5 Jan 75 (Cr: N Watson).

On the Birmingham to Worcester railway line, between Barnt Green and Blackwell stations, a headless body was found, on 3 Sept 74 (Birmingham Evening Mail, same date. Cr: D Driscoll) Police thought the man, in his 60s and believed to live locally, had been hit by a train in the night. No mention of what became of his head...

Wewoka, Oklahoma: Several weeks before our reports, Silas Narcomey, a Seminole Indian, had been decapitated in a hit-and-run accident. His head had not been recovered, and police said it may have fallen inside the car that struck him, and assumed that it would have been thrown out further down the road. Narcomey's relatives complained that weeks of searching had not found the head, but then reluctantly buried the body. According to Seminole belief, the body should be buried whole...otherwise the unfortunate Narcomey's ghost will spend eternity wandering in search of its head. Valley Courier (Alamosa, Co.) 17 Feb 78, Saturday Oklahoman, 18 Feb 78 (Cr: TR Adams)

ARMS, LEGS & FEET.

Falmouth, Cornwall: A decomposed human arm, hand and part of a ribcage was found in an attic on 20 Dec 76, by builders who merely left it lying on the scaffolding with a note attached: "In case you need a hand". Builders taking the scaffolding down on 18 Jan 77 left the limb in Hull's Lane, where it was found 5 hours later and finally reported. The right arm of a female, nearly 2 ft long, it had been sawn off "very neatly" from the rest of the ribcage, and was partially mummified.

Estimates of its age (since severance) ranged from 5 to 100 years... yet its origin remains a mystery. The West Briton, 20 Jan 77. (Cr: P Roberts).

Strangles Beach, nr Crackington Haven, Cornwall. In August 73, a decomposed body of a man aged between 25 & 30 was found on the beach. A week later, a 'human leg joint', which we gather refers to part of the leg and the foot was found. No positive identification was made, and both finds were subsequently buried. However, Cornwall County pathologist F D M Hocking told the inquest he had been unable to establish any direct connection between the body and the limb. Post & Weekly News, 2 Mar 74. (Cr: N Watson)

Walberswick, Suffolk: a peculiarly similar case. On 17 Jan 77 a foot was found on the beach. The previous November, a head in a plastic bag was brought up in a fisherman's net off Great Yarmouth, and during the 2nd week of Jan, a headless body was washed up at Sizewell...but no mention as to whether it was footless as well. D. Telegraph, 18 Jan 77.

Television personality Dr Magnus Pyke, of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, received a toe in the post from Chicago. It came from a woman butchered to death in a double murder... but why it was sent to the voluble Dr Pyke remains a mystery. Sun, 30 Apr 77.

OTHER PARTS.

Fareham, Hampshire: Part of a body, believed to be a baby, was found near a railway line. A woman was helping police inquiries. Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, 18 July 74. (Cr: N Watson).

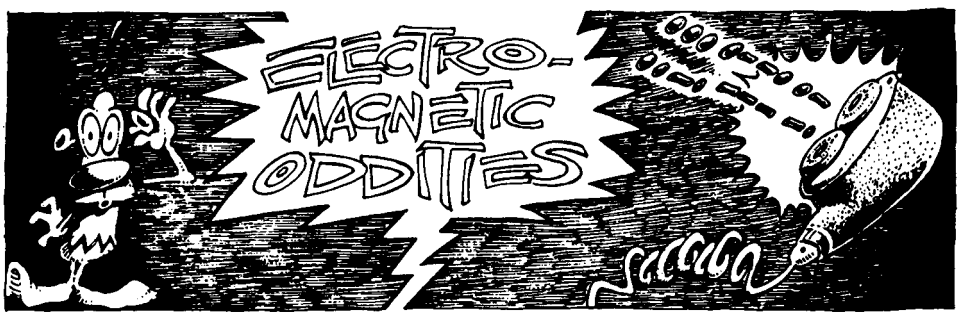
The Thames, nr Shell Haven: On the weekend of 22-23 Oct 77, a man's armless, legless body was found. Police identified the remains as Simon Archer, 46, lost from his yacht off Canvey Island sometime previously, after sailing off to investigate the Bermuda Triangle. Fate seems to have caught up with him rather prematurely...D. Telegraph, 24 Oct 77. (Cr: J Gee)

AND A COUPLE OF STRANGE ONES...

Buenos Aires, Argentina: A woman jailed for killing a man, dismembering his body and boiling his head, was to be retried on a plea of self-defence! Wonder if she got off? D. Express, 12 July 77.

Sand Springs, Oklahoma: Digging in his backyard, CL Hufford discovered what appeared to be a hand, with 5 fingers, human-like nails, fur, webbing between the fingers. It was flesh-coloured and flexible. A doctor at the University of Tulsa said it was a duck's foot. (Wha..?) Dallas Morning News, 17 Jan 73. (Cr: TR Adams).

SM.



We intended to deal with a variety of 'death ray' type material ranging from the microwave transmissions out of Russia in the last two years (allegedly based on the work of Tesla) to the rather hysterical speculations about the Cold War use of paranormal phenomena - but rather than cut the piece to fit the small space left to us, we'll give it fully next issue. Meanwhile we found a few other notes of interest which may or may not have something to do with unusual configurations of electro-magnetic energy.

SHOCKING STORIES

A new children's slide, erected in the village of Roffey, near Horsham, Sussex, is giving all its users a hefty belt. No obvious cause could be found except that

perhaps the children generated the static charge by their sliding. London Evening Standard 15 May 1974 (Cr: L Beer.)

A Stewarton, Lincs, man's new Triumph Dolomite car became so charged that apart from heavy shocks, he saw sparks flying between key and lock. It had never happened to him before with other cars. Sunday Post 27 April 1975 (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

Thousands of users of a multi-storey car-park in St Helens, Lancs, town center get the old frogs-legs treatment in their arms as they take tickets from the barrier machine. Despite £1000 worth of investigation, and statements from the manufacturer, council and Electricity Board officials that the machine is, as far as they can discover, technically safe and sound, the shocks continue. Liverpool Daily Post 23 Sept 1976 (Cr: Peter Rogerson.)

On 15 Jan 1977, a lady leading her young husky dog along a snow-covered pavement in Harlem, NY, stepped onto a section that was strangely wet and free of snow. Her dog howled, its hair stood on end and it collapsed and died. A vet said later death was caused by cardiac arrest and respiratory failure indicating electrocution. Other dogs were known to have yelped and run from that section. Con Ed troubleshooters found the sidewalk warm, and a test bulb glowed on contact. It was leaking between 20-40v; hardly enough to kill a dog, they said. To be safe, current was isolated from the cable in the vicinity and the story neatly ends. St Louis (Mo) Post-Dispatch 20 Jan, Atlanta (Ga) Constitution 21 Jan 1977 (Cr: Mark A Hall.)

ELECTRIC PEOPLE

Two old notes...for the record.

Vyvyan Jones, 12, of Henbury, Bristol, has been shocking people, making lights flicker, watches stop and the TV crackle since he broke his arm! For two days afterward his hair stood on end, he gave people huge jolts, and once had to be hauled quickly out of the bath because he was "tingling." Someone at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, where he was treated, said it was "a natural phenomenon" but not unique (see Phenomena for other cases), adding casually: "We've even had cases of people being able to lift iron bars because they are so magnetic." Sunday People 15 Feb 1976 (Cr: P Rogerson.)

The case of Mrs Grace Charlesworth is less straightforward. After living in their detached house in Congleton, Cheshire, for a trouble-free 38yrs, Mrs Charlesworth's trouble began in 1968. In the garden and the house electric shocks torment her day and night: "Sometimes they have swung me round bodily and in the night my head has started to shake as though I was using a pneumatic drill. One day sparks ran up the walls. Our lights flicker from time to time and nearly go out. The electric wiring has been tested and nothing could be found wrong." She discounts the possibility that she is the main focus: "The shocks occur only in this house and garden. I do not get them when away on holiday, staying with my sister, or even in the house next door." Psychological explanations could be offered for this, of course, but some apparently incidental info adds other dimensions to the story, and the overlaps with other phenomena will not go unnoticed. Mr Charlesworth remembers that about the time the trouble started, they and other local residents had petitioned the council over " weird humming and whizzing noises" from a nearby factory."At first we connected the trouble with the factory (although) I heard the humming (but) never felt any shocks...The noise lessened. Now we hear it only occasionally." Chief health inspector Ronald Whiston said: " When we received the petition from 46 residents, I traced the noise to a compressor on the first floor of the factory. The firm moved the motor to the ground floor and it could not then be heard. But we were told that Mrs Charlesworth's experiences continued. I could find nothing to go on. It was like looking for something that didn't exist. It is a complete mystery." Cryptically, Mrs Charlesworth herself adds: "Our phone has been hit by lightning five times in the last few years. Whether it is the house or me that attracts electricity I don't know." Sunday Express 19 March 1967 (Cr: Peter Rogerson.)

FORCE FIELDS?

But we can't help wondering how little we really know about the invisible matrix of forces that surround us. Tesla's largely neglected work on the wire-less transmission of power (he lit 20 bulbs at about 25 miles) by using the earth itself as part of the circuit, opens staggering unanswered questions. Sadly the new interest has a sinister appeal to the paranoid and the power-hungry, as we'll see next issue with the claims that the Soviets are experimenting along this line to control weather and minds. The new science of MHD can generate electricity in clouds of hot (ionised) gas...but our bodies too contain ionised particles and in our daily peregrinations we cut across magnetic

'lines of force'; and our water-filled tissues are just right for trapping micro-waves - we simply don't know enough about the human body's energy fields, our 'ergosphere'. There have been startling claims made recently for 'psychotronic' devices which can be charged with 'mental energy'. When released near plants in short bursts there are astonishing improvements in growth. They can also deliver 'psychic whammies' and trigger post-hypnotic commands etc. We have finally technologised the Curse of the Pharaohs! Consider the following in the light of unknown fields of force and shorn of their background belief system:

Mrs Dilys Cant is emphatic - an unseen barrier resisted her car as she tried to park in a bay in a new multi-storey park in the center of Durham. "It was as if I had come up against a kerb...but there was nothing there. It was uncanny." She tried 3 times, revving her engine to force the car past, and failed. She returned later with her daughter-in-law and they watcher another motorist having the same problem in that spot. Then, whatever it was resisting incursion into that space, left. Council officials tried and succeeded in parking there - and Mrs Cant, demonstrating for a TV film crew, was herself surprised when she backed straight into the space. She adds: "But I know what happened before was real. It's the truth - even if it does make me look rather foolish." Good for her! Sunday Express 14 Dec, Newcastle Journal 8 Dec 1975 (Cr: Paul Screeton, Tony Roberts.)

In the Fijian capital, Suva, tribal leaders performed a traditional ceremony ('bulubulu') to placate two spirits angry at a powerhouse built on tribal land, after inexplicable power failures every day for two weeks. Apparently it worked! Kansas City Times 25 June, Atlanta (Ga) Constitution 3 July 1977 (Cr: Richard Indin, Mark A Hall.)

Similarly, "mischief-making spirits" inhabiting a tree on Jalan Assam Lumbang, in Taiping, Malaysia, were blamed for "yet another" fatal road accident, after a car swerved off the road into another tree "without any apparent reason." Inter-tree rivalry or hatred? or mebbe they don't like cars! The Star (Penang) 11 March 1978 (Cr: Sam, I Will) And in the same country we learn of a mystery 30ft wooden 'pillar' in the heart of Rimba Mas Mas (Forest of Wealth on the Chuping sugar plantation about 16 miles from Kangar, north Malaysia. Sacrilege and attempts to demolish the 'pillar' have met with ill luck, even death. A plantation worker who cursed it was instantly dropped with a heart attack (when recovered he went back to beg forgiveness.) A 17yr-old Thai boy who urinated on it became 'hysterical'; so did his companion. Apparently possessed, they asked for candles and eggs to be placed at the foot of the structure, and when done they returned to normal. A tractor-driver who stole those eggs was later killed when his tractor overturned. Etc. There had been a local legend that in earlier times a king, Raja Bersiong, had built a beautiful palace deep in the jungle of the Thai-Malaysia border. Plantation workers, clearing a new field, came across the object, believed to be several centuries old. According to one, there were several 'pillars', which they thought might be the remains of Raja Bersiong's lost palace, but one was pulled down, since when bad luck has dogged the plantation. The Echo (Malaysia) 19 April 1978 (Cr: Ion Will.)

RJMR

Late Cats/cont from p33...

Officially cougars haven't been seen in Pennsylvania since 1884, but residents of Oakdale say they have seen one and found tracks in the "past 2 weeks". No reported escapes. Police nonchalant. Texarcana Gazette 4 March 1978 (Cr: Tom Adams).

The 'Surrey Puma' was seen "last week", about 7.30pm sitting and walking along the railway line at Blackwater, Surrey, by Mrs Janet Rutherford of Kings Way, who described it as "big, black and moved like a cat." The paper says the SP was last seen close-up at Star Hill, Hartley Wintney in July 1976. We don't think we have a note of this one, but 'Star Hill'; hmmmm! Fleet News (Surrey) 19 May 1978 (C.Hall)

Chicago Ghost Tour

Fortean Richard T Crowe runs a regular guided coach tour around Chicago's many sites of 'supernatural' and Fortean interest. Charges are low, and the tour is twice weekly. Write for more information to Richard T Crowe: Box 29054, Chicago, Illinois 60629, USA.

* NEWSLETTER *

...an informal postal exchange for studies in paraphysics and the esoteric arts, founded 1944, Non-sectarian, non-demanding. For an introductory leaflet, send a stamp to NL, 40 Parrs Wood Rd, Didsbury, Manchester M20 OND.

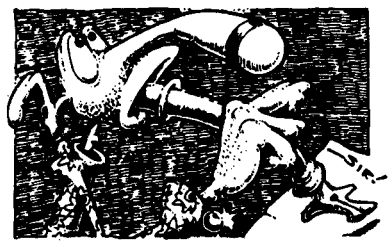
'Other' Reviews/cont from p31...

ience will find parts of the film difficult to comprehend.

Ufologists are unlikely to feel that the phenomenon they study has been accurately depicted. UFOs do appear to affect electrical equipment, but not to the extent of causing toys, vacuum-cleaners and cookers to operate on their own; poltergeist phenomena are sometimes connected with UFO events, but not to the extent of wrecking a house's contents; UFOs do hover over houses, but not to the accompaniment of thunderous roars, violent winds and rolling clouds. Probably the most blatant fact-twisting is in the final scenes when a vast intergalactic battlecruiser-type UFO (unknown in the records of ufology but quite familiar from the covers of SF paperbacks) comes in to land at a prepared rendezvous and landing pad made ready for the alien's first contact with earthmen. Here we see technological mankind in charge with his floodlights, cameras, recorders and computers awaiting the momentous touch-down. The truth is that it is not we who are in charge, or decide the when and where of close encounters, but they. Also, the alien visitor we meet on the screen appears to be childlike, wistful, timid and friendly, whereas the real CE witnesses, especially those who have been abducted, have described their aliens' attitudes at best one of indifference to humans and at worst one of menace and hostility. However, the scene where powerline repairman Roy Neary (played by Richard Dreyfuss) is immobilised and in a state of shock inside his truck while a UFO hovers above catches something of the strange terror that witnesses have been reporting for many a year. And Francois Truffaut, playing an international French UFO investigator, Claude Lacombe, presents us with a sympathetic character who is aware that there's a lot more afoot than goddarn aliens zooming around in spaceships.

Perhaps the scene where the technicians play the five-note 'space-theme' on their electronic synthesizer, is not without significance - the alien craft replies with blasts of what can only be described as 'galactic raspberries'! As a piece of light-hearted entertainment using the UFO theme, this overlong (2¼ hrs) insensitive movie will be enjoyed by SF buffs and the hard-of-hearing - but as a step forward in the task of informing the public about the full enigma of UFOs it is a non-starter.

J&CB



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23/SIRIUS/NUMEROLOGY

from Tony Bond, Toronto:

Robert Wilson was wondering aloud (FT23/33) whether Hitler had in fact ever lived in Liverpool. On p151 of A Man Called Intrepid, by William Stephenson (peperback edition) there is a reference to his having lived there from November 1912 till April 1913.

from Peter James, London:

The Wilson article (FT23/32-35) was stimulating in a bizarre kind of way, and stirred up a mess of oddities that have been brewing in my head for some time now about the 'Sirius Mystery'. For what it's worth, Bob Temple seems to have missed out a lot of material, suggesting his spacefish-from-Sirius theory is a bit too simple, although it is rather neat. The Dogon might have had different reasons for associating Sirius with fish-beings if they shared the ancient tradition (quite widespread) that Sirius actually has an effect on Earth's bodies of water. For example; the 23rd July rising of Sirius in Egypt coincided with the Nile flood. Pliny (Natural History 9:58) wrote that: "The whole sea is conscious of the rise of that star Sirius, as is most clearly seen in the Dardanelles, for seaweed and fishes float on the surface, and everything is turned up from the bottom." The Babylonian goddess Ishtar (Sirius as well as Venus) was thought to stir up the waters under the earth. Etc, etc - see Hamlet's Mill, Santillana and von Dechend, pp215-6.

What's this got to do with Wilson's article? Well, the element of water in Hebrew Cabbalism is represented by the letter 'Mem', first letter of the Hebrew word for fish, which also happens to go on path 23 of the Cabbalistic tree. How's that for fragile evidence!

On the subject of Cabbalism, I can't fathom out why Wilson, who's a bit of a Cabbalist, didn't fathom out the following: he refers twice to the coincidences

of the letters K and G in his 23 mysteries -- but he seems to have missed that, in both Greek and Hebrew gematria, K has a value of 20, and G of 3!

As a final red herring, the 23rd word of the 23rd Psalm, to which Wilson refers, is "waters" in the NEB translation; unfortunately it isn't in the KJ - I'll check the Hebrew sometime.

POTATOES & FLU: A THEORY

from Steve Ogden, Kentucky:

Since the middle of the 16th century when the white potato was introduced into Europe, the main cause of influenza has been poisonous potatoes. Potatoes and tomatoes both belong to the Deadly Nightshade family of plants, and develop concentrations of solanine, a poisonous narcotic alkaloid. New potatoes contain more solanine than mature tubers, and sprouting increases solanine. It also increases when the tubers turn green; or when the plants are grown during hot dry, or very wet weather. The growing season was too hot and dry in 1889, 1918, 1930, 1946, 1957, 1969, 1976 and 1977. ((Though Steve doesn't specifically say so, I assume he's arguing that flu was fairly rampant in these years - it certainly was in 1918, 1976 and 1977 - Ed))

I learnt recently that many people can't eat new potatoes because their systems will not digest them. This is exactly the result I suggest that solanine gives. Undigested starch paste, lodging in the system, allows the rapid growth of pathogenic bacteria. The toxins from this rapid growth quickly pervade the body bringing the onset of influenza. I have ample evidence to show that a 'virus' is merely the result of this toxic action. I have seen colds of all kinds, and flu, quickly stopped by flushing away bacteria.

((Comments, anyone? - Ed))

NESSIE PHOTOS & THE NEW PHYSICS

from Tom Bearden, Alabama:

As usual, your FT24 was simply superb - so much so that I wish to comment on the Doc Shiels photos of Nessie (FT22/24-5). The GSW analysis (FT24/14-6) in fact showed just what I would have expected if the photos were genuine! From where I'm at, water monsters, sasquatches etc are materialized projections from the collective unconscious, starting as archetypal forms, but kneaded and shaped by the progressively shallower layers between the entire-species-unconscious and the personal-unconscious of the observer. In fact, Doc's following of his "intuition" or hunches would be the proper way to actually try to "intercept" tulpoidal/archetypal materialization .

The reason for the "alarming feature" of transparency is quite simple: the mind-realm is a virtual-state realm existing as a concrete, real, physical universe three orthogonal spatial turns away from our 'normal' 3D frame, in infinite dimensional space. Ie: there is an infinity of such 'mind frames' three orthoflips away - each person's mind is one of these frames. Further, there is coherent crosstalk between a person's mind-universe (of thought objects/changes) and his physical body "channel tuner." The crosstalk is two-way; essentially, that is the definition of a living biological system, a finite set of phenomena (soma) in this common frame coherently crosstalking with a multiple orthorotated universe (mind frame). In his mind-world one is a god indeed, for his thought objects are actual physical creations in that realm. Finally, all the mindworlds crosstalk a wee bit; and this common crosstalk is the collective human unconscious, where we have selected the crosstalk common to the entire human species (all human minds). ((For a discussion of concensus 'reality', see my article elsewhere in this issue - Ed))

Pressure (stress) on large groupings of the human race exerts sufficient pressure on the collective unconscious to focus enough coherence in the greater crosstalk level to get materialization popouts in our common 3D physical frame. Much of Fortean phenomena seems to result from this; especially UFOs. In fact, one can do a direct 'dream analysis' on many of the UFO waves if one first understands that the Cold War has been the major stress, on the human species as a whole, for the last 30yrs or so, and that the Soviets have secretly developed psychotronic weapons of certain types.

At any rate, when a tulpoidal form is rotating into our 3D frame for materialization, it first passes through the frame that is one turn removed. This is the frame for ordinary electromagnetic field (eg. 'light' etc), and so when the kindling reaches a certain point, only a 'light-form' is present in this frame at the intersection. As kindling continues to increase, the form has partial materialization (3D) to us, while still having partial 'light-form'

(2D) constituency. As kindling continues, the tulpoid gets more and more solidly physical and less and less light-like. Finally the full materialization results. All of this is directly evidenced in thought-photography and in UFO phenomena.

So, since GSW found exactly the characteristic I would predict, then I am strongly inclined to accept Doc's photos as genuine, other things being equal.

((Tom has developed a series of papers exploring the implications of the 'corrected physics' of the Everett/Wheeler/Graham many-worlds interpretation (MWI) of quantum mechanics, which among other things rewrites the basic 'laws' of physics in some radical and startling ways and allows the accommodation of much Fortean phenomena. These will be contained in two books to be published shortly, and to be reviewed in FT, naturally. Tom also edits a new journal, Specula, dealing with these topics - see journals review section. Meanwhile, the above letter proves a good introduction to Tom's article, next issue, in which he expounds and expands his ideas on UFOs, cattle mutilations, the Cold War and psychotronic weapons - Ed))

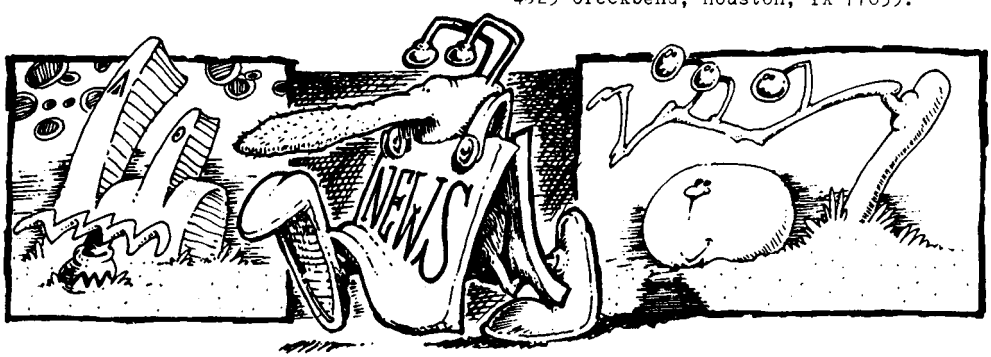
We also heard from:

David Tame - who pointed out that I had wrongly dated the report of rabbit mutilation at Three Spires, (FT23/4). It should have been 1976, not 1977, placing it almost exactly a year earlier than the 1977 killings in that area - and the source was Coventry Evening Telegraph 26 Feb 1976.

Valerie Martin - who answered our query about the poet/levitator Richard Church (FT23/14). She says:"...at the time of his death (several years ago) and for years previously, he lived in a converted oast house somewhere in the Kent weald."

Tom Adams - editor of the authoritative US mutilation investigation newsletter, Stigmata, would like to contact any Australian readers who could keep him informed about the state of mutie mysteries down under; or indeed those interested in the gruesome subject anywhere on this far-flung globe. Contact him at: Box 1094, Paris, Texas 75460, USA.

Kurt Lothmann - avid Fortean, who would like to make contact with other Forteans within his US zip-code prefix area (ie Texas 770--). Write to him at: 4625 Creekbend, Houston, TX 77035.



Recently, Mr X of the Res Bureaux at last made public his plans to publish a review-serial on historical Fortean sources, reference material and attendant discussion and analysis. Naturally it will pay particular attention to Fort's own notes and sources. This will be a mammoth task that speaks volumes for X's dedication to our field. However, he needs at least 250 subscribers before the project can roll, and I urge as many of you as possible to support this priceless and long-needed project. It will be called CHAOS: A Review of the Damned and published 8 times a year. A full sub will cost $15.00 for Canada, $13.50 for USA, and £7.00 for UK, for all other nations the Canadian rates apply. Air mail rates for USA will cost an additional $4., and for UK an additional £2.50., and for other nations an extra Canada $2.50. Single copies will cost: $2.00 (Canada), $2.00 (US), £1.00 (UK), and other nations Canada $2.00. For additional info write to X: Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario K7L 5C8, Canada.

On p40 of FT23, we gave an Australian address for an outfit calling themselves the Hollow Earth Society. We had a feeling that this was not the only one. Sure

enough - in Daily Mirror 11 Nov 1977 is a letter from Mr O Everson, claiming to be the founder of another society . He adds in his letter that far from raising the sea-level, a grand melting of all polar ice would actually lower the sea-level! Those of you who'd like to hear more can contact him at Drury Lane, Martin Hussingtree, Worcester, Worcs.

From Australia comes news of a very interesting film containing Fortean-type events. Called The Last Wave, it follows director Peter Weir's previous eerie masterpiece, Picnic at Hanging Rock which was a deliciously understated mystery of the disappearance of a group of schoolgirls around 1900 at an Australian Aboriginal ritual site, with parapsychological and 'Close Encounter' overtones. In the Last Wave international star Richard Chamberlain plays a young lawyer drawn into the lives of two aborigines, the older of whom is the guardian of a secret underground chamber housing the relics of a long dead civilisation in Australia. Chamberlain is plagued by symbols (in his daily life) and dreams of the destruction of Sydney by a giant wave. The film continues the evocative mood of Picnic of impending doom and its signs and effects on the human psyche. Among the omens featured are sudden storms, heavy hailstorms in the Outback where none was seen before, oddly marked rocks, ESP, dreams, entrances to subterranean worlds, and death by bone-pointing. Sounds fascinating, but we may have to wait. I believe it was shown once at the NFT and has no national distribution signed yet...so keep an eye on the club and specialist film theaters. Our US readers may have an even longer wait, as I believe Picnic has not been shown yet in the States. When it is, I urge most strongly that every one who can should see the film at least once. It is a veritable masterpiece of pure Fortean feelings.

Also keep an eye open for two of Doc Shiels' productions in the West Country, which may come to London soon (or sometime). One called Spooks is a 2-part drama of Count Dracula vs Sherlock Holmes, laced with Forteana, and starring most of the Shiels clan aided and abetted by a few others. The Shiels clan also appear in Gallavant which achieved instant notoriety when the Sun a few weeks ago gave a 'shock/horror' type coverage, bewailing that it dwelt unnecessarily on sex, violence, nudity and swearing, especially as it was aimed at children, and starred Doc's own kids. Quite rightly Doc said the kids are interested in these things and their interest cannot be ignored or suppressed. Besides the critics missed the real point that once the childrens' interest is caught it is steered toward a much more interesting health, holistic, even magical view of the complex universe around us. There are plans too for the reincarnation of Distant Humps (Doc's story of his own Fortean encounters) in London sometime. We'll keep you informed...if the Arts Council Police and Whitehouse's anti-anything-that-smacks-of-porn-in-disguise Stormtroopers don't get Doc first!

All those interested in Earth Mysteries and ancient sites will be glad to learn that there is to be a repeat of last year's very successful meeting, the Moot, organised by The Ley Hunter. It will begin at 10.15am on 8 July, as last year at the Olde Gate House, at the top of North Rd, London N6. Speakers so far include Nigel Pennick, Don Robbins and John Barnat. Other events are planned for later the same day - hopefully the weather will hold for a repeat of last year's splendid ramble over Hampstead Heath. If you're thinking of going, you are asked to write to the Ley Hunter so they have an idea of numbers and refreshments to arrange for. TLH 'Moot': Box 152, London N10 1EF.

The 4th Northern UFO Network Conference, to be held in Scunthorpe this year, is being hosted by the Scunthorpe UFO Research Society, at Scunthorpe Film Theatre, on Saturday 24 June. The theme will be 'UFO Close Encounters' with lectures and discussions, from 10am to 6pm (with a break for lunch). At 7,30, Philip Jenkinson, media film critic,will give an illustrated film and chat show on the UFO (etc) in SF films. Full ticket is £1.50 - half-day is 60p. For further info or booking write to Nigel Watson: 1 Angerstein Rd, Scunthorpe, S Humberside DN17 2LZ. NB: cheques, POs etc to be made out to Nigel Watson.

News comes of another conference - - the International Conference on Christian Parapsychology, Wed 30 August 10am to Fri 1 Sept, at Digby Stuart College. It will be followed immediately by a weekend conference of the Churches' Fellowship for Psychical & Spiritual Studies (for which seperate application must be made). Registration for the Int.Conf.CP. is £25/$50.00 - rooms may be booked at extra cost. Programme de-

ails and other charges are not known yet. For further info etc write to the Conference Secretary: St Mary Abchurch, London EC4N 5BA.

A new bookshop has opened in Hove to cater for the growing interest in parapsychology. It will stock everything from Acupuncture to Zen, including UFOs, homeopathy, numerology, occult sciences, religious experience and spiritualism. Their main interest though is in those often hard-to-find specialist books on serious paraphysics and parapsychology, including imported books. They intend to publish special lists for mail order. Contact or visit: The Transpersonal Bookshop, 19 Sterling Place, Hove BN3 3YU (Tel: 0273 734132.)

We read, with great interest, in the D Telegraph 30 Dec 1977, that news agency teleprinters (noisy old tickertape machines) are to be installed in some American schools to make learing to read more attractive. The schools will receive the general wire-news for 40mins, with 20mins of related programme, for 12 hours a day. In addition the Center for Short-lived Phenomena will donate a special bulletin on quakes, meteorological events etc. This is something we really ought to have. Last year I wrote to all the big news agencies (AP, Reuters, UPI, etc) asking for details of their services, but they didn't want to know. If any reader knows about such services and can advise us, please write to FT. Ideally FT ought to subscribe to a wire-service teleprinter, but as we haven't the money, we'd settle for buying job lots of scrap bulletins from the printer wastebasket! But there'll come a day when we'll be in demand, providing a Fortean news service.

Finally, we note the arrest of Billy Dodson, in Jacksonville, Florida, in July 1977, for various incomprehensible acts. He had gone into a church scantily dressed, placed pamphlets on the pulpit and walked out; later he was seen ramming his car into the church doors, apparently annoyed at the building being closed. He was arrested after sitting in his car staring at the church for hours. After incriminating himself in conversation in his cell, he was also accused of a series of acts at city hall in which chairs were overturned in a conference hall and a chess king placed on the head table, on top of a religious pamphlet on which was written "He is risen" and "OB1-K". The baffling notation "OB1-K" was also found on scraps of paper left in the mayor's desk on the 14th floor. Dodson told investigators that "OB1-K" stood for "Oh boy, one king" but declined to explain further...Police think it's a reference "to the game of chess or to the Deity." Lexilinkers will have a field day with this one. My own idea, for what it's worth, is a connexion with the film Star Wars, in which a mysterious old knight, played by Alec Guinness, is called 'Obiwan Kenobi'. If that's not the link, then it's a good coincidence. Jacksonville Journal 13 July 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott). May the farce be with him!

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